

King, Crown Prince celebrate Army Day

AMMAN (J.T.) — On the eve of Jordan's celebration of the Great Arab Revolt anniversary and Army Day, His Majesty King Hussein accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Monday attended a ceremony organised by the Jordanian Armed Forces at the Martyr's Monument. Upon his arrival at the ceremony, the King was welcomed by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mirai Kaabneh and senior army officers who accompanied him on his inspection of the different wings of the monument which relayed the story of the Great Arab Revolt and the development of the armed forces. Later King Hussein presented Royal medals to a group of army officers at Raghadan Palace. Attending the ceremony were members of the Royal family, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and other senior officials.

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Palestinian found shot dead

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The body of a Palestinian shot through the head was found early Monday in a car near a luxury hotel in the western sector of Jerusalem, police said. Police said they were trying to determine if the shooting was an ordinary crime or if it was yet another killing targeting Palestinians who had sold Palestinian land or property to Israelis. Three Palestinians suspected of being involved in transaction of this kind were gunned down in May. The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has said it regards Palestinians who sell land to Israelis as "traitors" who deserved death. The PNA sees selling land to Jews as leading to the expansion of Jewish settlements on land which will one day be a Palestinian state.

Iranian parliament ratifies chemical weapons pact

TEHRAN (AP) — The Iranian parliament Sunday ratified a U.N. pact aimed at eliminating chemical weapons, state-run radio reported. The world community approved the chemical weapons convention in 1993. So far, 165 countries have signed it and about 90 have ratified it formally. It requires the destruction of all existing weapons within 10 years and outlaws development, production, distribution or stockpiling of any more. Ratification by Iran's parliament, or majlis, gives U.N. inspectors the right to check here for weapons and production facilities. The United States has repeatedly charged that Iran has been trying to acquire nuclear and chemical weapons. Iran says it opposes chemical warfare and has threatened lawsuits against German companies that it says supplied Iraq with chemical weapons during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Palestinian Planning Minister Nabil Shaath visits Norway

OSLO (AFP) — Palestinian Planning Minister Nabil Shaath arrived in Oslo on Monday for talks with Norwegian Foreign Minister Bjorn Tore Godal on the Middle East peace process, the foreign ministry said. Mr. Shaath arrived four hours late for his scheduled talks at the foreign ministry and a new meeting has been arranged for Tuesday. "Mr. Shaath is here to discuss the future for the peace process," ministry press spokesman Ingvald Havnen said. The visit has been planned for some time, and has nothing to do with a recent report about \$300 million in missing donations to Palestinians. Norway has played a key role in the Middle East peace process, hosting secret meetings between Israeli and PLO officials that resulted in the first Israeli-Palestinian peace accord signed in 1993.

Making history, six Israelis testify at Dakamseh trial; 10 more on Sunday

Mjalli loses bid to disqualify witnesses

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — For the first time in Jordan's history, Israeli witnesses testified in court here Monday in the trial of Corporal Ahmad Dakamseh, the Jordanian soldier charged with the murder of seven Israeli schoolgirls last March.

Six Israeli prosecution witnesses took the stand, three of them took the oath by swearing over the Torah, while the other three witnesses refused, stating that their beliefs prevent them from doing so, and instead "declared that they will tell the truth."

Defence Attorney Hussein Mjalli contested the presence of the Israeli witnesses stating that "the Jews are enemy,

King receives Israeli witnesses

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday received the Israelis who came to testify before the court currently trying Ahmad Dakamseh, some of whom were injured in the Baqoura incident in which several Israeli girl students were killed last March. Present with the King were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Chief of the Royal Court Awn Khasawneh, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mirai Kaabneh.

and the enemy's testimonies are not accepted."

"One of the conditions for witnesses is that they are not enemies or bear hatred for the defendant and that they should be fair," Attorney Mjalli, who is also the president of the Jordan Bar Association, said.

Presiding Judge Brigadier General Ma'moun Khasawneh rejected the defence's argument stating: "Since we agreed to hear the witnesses during the last session, we will proceed with our decision and at the same time reject defence arguments because they are legally baseless."

Corp. Dakamseh is standing trial on charges of shooting and killing seven Israeli schoolgirls, and injuring five more on March 13 in the Baqoura area on the northern Jordanian borders.

In response to a question posed by the prosecution, the 51-year-old coroner said that he estimates distance between the shooter and the children to have been between 1.5 to 2.0 metres.

Zeiv Kramer, 45, who was escorting the schoolgirls at the time of the incident, said that when the shooting

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Rifai assumes office as speaker of Senate; expresses gratitude over King's confidence

AMMAN (J.T.) — Former Prime Minister Zaid Rifai who was named Sunday by His Majesty King Hussein as speaker of the Senate sent a message of reply to the King expressing gratitude for his appointment, pledging continued efforts to serve the nation and allegiance to the Hashemite Throne.

"I have been honoured by Your Majesty's appointment as speaker of the Senate and I pledge to exert all possible efforts in collaboration with my colleagues towards enhancing the march of democracy, ensuring dialogue and cooperation among the three branches of government and protecting the independence of each authority within the framework of the

Constitution," Mr. Rifai said.

"The Senate will continue to protect the Constitution and ensure the rule of law and guard democracy against any danger, safeguard the Jordanian people's dignity and protect the gains they achieved under your wise leadership over the years."

Mr. Rifai recalled in his letter to the King that Jordan has encountered and dealt with numerous challenges but was able under the King's courageous and wise leadership to overcome these difficulties and pursue the course of progress.

Mr. Rifai who has been a member of the Upper House of Parliament serving as senator since 1984

formed two Jordanian governments, the first between 1973 and 1976 and the second between 1984 through 1989.

His appointment as speaker of the Senate came one day after the resignation of Senate Speaker Ahmad Lawzi who resigned for health reasons.

In his Sunday letter to Mr. Rifai, King Hussein said he was entrusting him with the post in view of his dedication, long service and loyalty.

"I entrust you with the post of speaker of the Senate and I am confident that through cooperation with the Senate members you will help enhance the democratic process and uphold the principles and traditions of dialogue and



cooperation among the three branches of government and protect their independence within the framework of the Constitution," the King said in his letter to Mr. Rifai.

"Our democratic process is a source of pride for us

(Continued on page 7)

Israeli-Palestinian meeting 'promising' — Mubarak

Egyptian president says he does not work for EU envoy and gives him up to two years to prove his capabilities

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Monday hailed a meeting of Palestinian and Israeli negotiators in Cairo as "promising," and called for a quick resumption of full peace negotiations.

"The Israeli-Palestinian talks held yesterday (Sunday) in Cairo were promising," Mr. Mubarak told reporters after a tour of an oil field south of Cairo.

"I hope that the wheel of negotiations between the two sides will turn because any delay will be considered a loss for the two sides," Mr. Mubarak said.

"Yesterday's meeting is considered the first between the two sides for a long time. They exchanged views and the atmosphere of the talks was excellent," Mr. Mubarak said.

He stressed that Egypt, which sponsored the first full encounter between the two sides since Palestinian-Israeli talks ground to a halt in March over Jewish settlements, would pursue its efforts.

"Egypt will continue to help both sides continue the peace process to the end," Mr. Mubarak said.

Top Palestinian negotiator, said Monday Israelis and Palestinians remain far apart on resuming peace talks and Israel has made no "serious" proposals on the key issue of Jewish settlements.

"Despite great efforts during our meeting in Cairo to bridge the gap, it still remains," Saeb Erakat told AFP.

"The main reason why the meeting did not produce results was because the Israeli side did not put forward anything serious, particu-

larly on the issue of settlement policy," he said.

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators agreed to meet again in Israel Thursday after more than two hours of Egyptian-sponsored talks in Cairo Sunday, which were attended by Mr. Mubarak's top policy advisor Osama Al Baz.

Mr. Baz said Sunday that the talks helped make "some progress" but neither the Egyptian official nor the Palestinian and Israeli negotiators provided specific details on what had been accomplished in Cairo.

Mr. Mubarak, meanwhile, dismissed statements by European Union (EU) Middle East envoy Miguel Angel Moratinos who gave Egypt two weeks to help achieve progress in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

"It is not true. I don't work for him and in fact I give him a year or even two to prove his capabilities," Mr. Mubarak said.

Mr. Moratinos told the Jerusalem Post: "We, the Americans and the Europeans, are still giving the Egyptians a chance ... I think in two week's time, if we don't see anything, a new development of the EU or the U.S. will have to be undertaken."

"If there is no breakthrough as a result of the Egyptian initiative, the American administration will have to be fully involved and will try to do something, along with the EU," he said.

"We exchange views on the peace process and they are kept in the picture with each step along the way," Mr. Mubarak said.

Truce panel holds Israel responsible for Lebanon bombing

NAQOURA (AFP) — The five-nation committee monitoring a ceasefire accord in south Lebanon Monday ruled that Israel was responsible for the death of a person in a roadside bombing in southeast Lebanon.

"Israeli forces or those cooperating with them detonated roadside bombs in the area between Zillay and Yohmor that resulted in the death of one person and the injury of another," the monitoring group said in a statement.

The ruling came after a 17-hour meeting of the committee — made up of France, Israel, Lebanon, Syria and the United States — which ended at 4:00 a.m. Monday.

The Israeli delegate stated that the wounded person was a member of a Lebanese armed group and that the person killed had links to a Lebanese armed group," the statement said.

The Lebanese delegates however said both casualties were Lebanese civilians transporting a water tank, it said.

Lebanon considered the attack, which occurred last Wednesday just outside the Israeli-occupied "security zone" in southern Lebanon, as a violation of last April's ceasefire accord.

Under the terms of the agreement, which ended Israel's 17-day Grapes of Wrath offensive against Hizbollah guerrillas in south Lebanon, both sides are banned from targeting civilians or launching attacks from civilian areas in their ongoing conflict.

The committee also discussed during the marathon meeting an Israeli complaint over an alleged truce violation by Hizbollah guerrillas in the border area also Wednesday.

"The monitoring group accepted as factual that a Lebanese armed group detonated a device placed in an electrical control box on a power pole near Ain Mejdalin resulting in the death of a person," the statement said. The group however said it also "accepted as factual that the person killed was an employee of the electric company and a member of a security unit cooperating with Israel."

The Israeli delegate said he was attempting to repair the failure of an electrical line providing services to civilians while the Lebanese team held that the electrical control box was in a military zone closed to civilians, and used exclusively to provide power to a military position.



BARAK VISITS AMMAN FOR FIRST TRIP OUT AS PARTY LEADER: His Majesty King Hussein Monday received newly-elected chairman of Israel's Labour Party Ehud Barak at Raghadan Palace and congratulated him on his victory. During the meeting attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the two sides discussed the peace process and ways of overcoming obstacles in its path particularly on the Israeli-Palestinian track. The two sides stressed the need for intensifying efforts to ensure the resumption of peace talks, the ending of differences and the deadlock that face the peace process. Attending the meeting were Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Chief of the Royal Court Awn Khasawneh (Photo by Youssef 'Allan)

Arafat says meeting with Israel to be continued next Thursday

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat said Monday that Palestinian and Israeli negotiators will hold another meeting on Thursday in a new bid to overcome the deadlock in the peace process between the two sides.

Speaking to reporters following his meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Mr. Arafat

described the talks held in Cairo as "an initial meeting that would be continued next Thursday."

Mr. Arafat was commenting on "the first encounter between Israeli and Palestinian negotiators that was held in the Egyptian capital on Sunday, the first the two sides held since March when talks were put on hold following the Israeli government's decision to build a Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem.

Mr. Arafat, who flew back to Gaza Strip on board a Jordanian military helicopter after talks with His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, denied reports that Israel has "pledged" to freeze settlement building in Arab east Jerusalem and accused Israel of procrastination in implementing 34 articles in the peace treaty signed

(Continued on page 7)

Israel backs down on forcing curriculum on Arab schools

RAMALLAH (AFP) — Israel has backed off from its attempt to impose its own curriculum on Palestinian schools in the annexed eastern sector of Jerusalem, a Palestinian National Authority (PNA) official said Monday.

Palestinian Deputy Education Minister Naim Abu Hommos said he met with Israeli liaison officials after the Israeli government decided a week ago to impose the new curriculum ahead of final exams, scheduled to start Wednesday.

In the meeting it was decided that exams will be conducted in the same way as in the past. In the past all

exams in the West Bank and Jerusalem have been done by the Jordanian curriculum," Abu Hommos told a press conference.

"It was agreed we will continue this way in the future," he said.

The Israeli decision to bar the Jordanian curriculum was seen as an attempt by right-wing Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert to further edge out PNA influence in east Jerusalem.

The self-rule authority oversees the Jordanian curriculum in the West Bank and, informally, in Arab east Jerusalem where Israel says the authority's presence is barred by self-rule accords

between the two sides. The Jordanian curriculum was used in the West Bank even after Israel occupied it and east Jerusalem in 1967. Israel also ignored the curriculum's use in east Jerusalem, which it annexed the same year, after an early attempt to impose the curriculum on Arab Israelis was foiled by widespread Palestinian protests.

This latest move on the school curriculum came amid a campaign by the Israeli government to strengthen its hold on east Jerusalem, by building a new Jewish settlement in the area.

Erbakan says Iraq operation not over

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan has denied saying that a three-week-old military push against Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq was drawing to a close. Anatolian News Agency (ANA) said.

"The northern Iraq operation has reached its main targets but the clean up is not over, it's continuing. That's what I want to say. What I said was not that the operation was ending," the state-run agency quoted Mr. Erbakan as saying Sunday night.

ANA had said earlier

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On the Occasion of the
Anniversary of The Great
Arab Revolt and Army Day



ARAB BANK

is honoured to convey to

HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN

and to the
People of Jordan

Its most cordial wishes and greetings

Japanese Red Army suspects go on trial in Lebanon for 'forgery'

BEIRUT (R) — Five suspected Japanese Red Army guerrillas went on trial in Beirut Monday on charges of passport forgery and illegal entry to Lebanon that carry possible sentences of up to 10 years in jail.

Kazuo Tohira, Haruo Wako, Mariko Yamamoto, Kozo Okamoto and Masao Adachi smiled and raised their fists in salute as they arrived at the courtroom packed with hundreds of journalists and lawyers.

A group of 136 lawyers who have offered to represent the five without charge in recognition of what they see as their fight against Israel for Arab rights issued a petition for Lebanon to give them political asylum.

The five were arrested in February under circumstances that have never been fully clarified after living for years in Lebanon. Japan expressed hopes they would be extradited to face international charges arising from guerrilla activity.

However, Lebanon first denied for weeks that it was holding them and then refused to let Japanese officials interrogate them. It finally charged them with relatively minor offences which ensured that they could not be extradited.

Lebanese acupuncturist Umayya Abboud, who was arrested with the five, went on trial simultaneously on



Japanese Red Army members (from L to R) Masao Adachi, Haruo Wako, Kozo Okamoto and Kazuo Tohira clench their fists at a Lebanese court in Beirut June 9. The trial of the five Japanese members, arrested in February in Lebanon on forgery charges started amid tight security measures (Photo by AFP)

charges of illegally practising medicine. She was originally accused of helping the alleged guerrillas forge Lebanese documents but the accusation was later dropped.

The Red Army was founded in 1971. It is allied to hardline anti-Israeli Palestinian factions and carried out spectacular attacks in support of the

Palestinian cause. One of the suspects, Kozo Okamoto, took part in a Red Army attack in 1972 at Tel Aviv's Lod Airport in which 24 people were killed and 100 wounded.

He was captured by Israeli forces and sentenced to life imprisonment but was released in a Palestinian-Israeli prisoner swap in May 1985.

The ageing guerrillas were arrested in Beirut and the eastern Bekaa valley, which was a haven for guerrilla groups during Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war.

They were quoted in interviews they gave while in detention as saying they would commit suicide if Lebanon returned them to Japan.

Israeli drop in demolitions of Arab homes causes W. Bank home boom

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — A de facto freeze in Israeli demolitions of unauthorised Palestinian homes in Arab east Jerusalem has sparked an illicit housing boom among Arab residents, Palestinian officials said Sunday.

Khalil Tufakji, who oversees land affairs in Jerusalem for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said Israeli demolitions of homes built without permits in Arab east Jerusalem had fallen from an average of around eight per month over the past 10 years to only three for the first five months of 1997.

The virtual halt in demolitions followed a breakdown in Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations and fears of violence sparked by Israel's decision to build a Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem.

"The Israelis have issued 800 demolition orders this year, but so far only three homes have actually been destroyed," Mr. Tufakji told AFP.

Since then, he said, the pace of unauthorised

building in the eastern sector of the city has jumped.

The Palestinian expert did not have exact figures, but said a recent Israeli press report that Palestinians had built about 1,000 structures in the past six months in Arab east Jerusalem appeared correct. By comparison, 800 unauthorised houses or additions were built over the previous 18 months.

Mr. Tufakji said the housing spurt was also the result of the accelerated return to the city of Palestinians threatened with the loss of their Israeli-issued residency permits.

The right-wing Israeli government elected a year ago has stepped up the policy of revoking Arab east Jerusalem residency permits of Palestinians who live outside the city boundaries for more than seven years.

"In 1993, there were 165,000 Arab residents and in 1997, there are 174,000 and much of this is from the return of those who were afraid of losing their Israeli identification cards," he said.

While cancelling Arabs' residency permits, Israelis have moved to increase Jewish presence in Arab east Jerusalem via both large public housing projects and individual purchases of existing Arab homes.

Israel occupied east Jerusalem from Jordan in the 1967 Mideast war and annexed the sector as part of its "eternal capital."

Palestinians want to make east Jerusalem the capital of a future state. Although Israel pledged under the Oslo peace accords to negotiate the future status of the city, current Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said Israeli sovereignty over east Jerusalem is non-negotiable.

Other factors contributing to the recent rush of Arab home building in the east, Palestinian officials said, include efforts by self-rule government to buy up property before it falls into the hand of Jewish settlers.

Hanan Ashrawi, a Jerusalem member of the Palestinian legislative council and higher educa-

tion minister in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), confirmed that there was a concerted Arab effort to buy and build in east Jerusalem.

But she stressed the action was orchestrated by the PLO and not the PNA, which is forbidden under peace agreements from operating in east Jerusalem.

"There are a lot of Palestinian organisations and of course the PLO acts in east Jerusalem to help the Palestinians build there," Ms. Ashrawi told AFP.

"It's the responsibility of all Christian and Muslim Palestinians in the world to safeguard Palestinian property and Palestinian land in east Jerusalem."

The land conflict took on a new intensity when three Arabs accused of selling property to Jews in the Jerusalem area were found murdered last month.

The slayings came after Palestinian officials declared that Palestinians who sell land to Israelis face the death penalty.

Religious row blocks draft law on organ transplants in Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Religious and ethical obstacles are blocking a draft law to legalise organ transplants in Egypt, as supporters and detractors fight it out over the concept of "clinical death."

The bill prepared by professors from the northern University of Mansura is to authorise "organ transplants in cases of definitive death," which would be the first de facto recognition here of clinical death, according to parliamentary sources.

That has sparked a huge debate here over the ethics of organ transplants, even before the bill comes before parliament in a few months time.

In mid-March Egypt's mufti, Sheikh Nasser Farid Wassel, announced that the senior most Sunni Muslim authority at Al Azhar had "accepted the principle" of organ transplants.

But a few weeks later Sheikh Wassel was quoted in the press saying he was opposed to recognition of clinical death, and he has not relented since.

"Organ transplants from a dead person are legal as long as his death is real and not clinical death," Sheikh Wassel said last week.

According to the president of the medical association, Hamdi Sayyed,

failure to accept clinical death empties the draft law of any meaning because the transplant of organs such as kidneys, hearts and livers cannot be done unless a donor is clinically dead.

"Clinical death is recognised in 90 countries, including a dozen Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia where Islamic law is applied," Mr. Sayyed said.

"We have fatwas (religious law) from several ulemas such as Sheikh Yousef Al Qaradawi (a reputed Egyptian theologian now based in Qatar) who have recognised clinical death — a total halt to brain activity — as definitive death," Mr. Sayyed said.

The draft law stipulates the creation of a three-doctor committee to ascertain clinical death before any organ transplant is undertaken "to avoid any possible abuses," Mr. Sayyed said.

The dean of Al Azhar University, Ahmad Omar Hashem, however denounced doctors "who use words such as clinical death and recent death because God prohibits us to kill souls."

It is not only Egypt's religious circles which have objections to the bill.

Twenty doctors from several Egyptian universities have sent an urgent message to parlia-

ment to denounce the draft law as tantamount to "murder."

"Removing vital organs from a patient in deep coma is murder," said one of the doctors, Safwat Hassan Lotfi.

"The draft law will also legalise the traffic of human organs in all but name because it provides for organ donations and proposes that people authorise the use of their organs after their deaths," Mr. Lotfi said.

Lotfi said differences remained in other countries too over the concept of clinical death and recalled that Al Azhar had passed a fatwa in 1992 banning organ transplants in case of clinical death.

Nevertheless the president of the medical association has not given up hope that organ transplants will be legalised soon.

"Health Minister Ismail Sallam has prepared another draft resolution concerning organ transplants and has already received the approval in principle of Al Azhar," Mr. Sayyed said, adding that parliament will discuss it in the fall.

In 1993, the Egyptian parliament shelved plans to discuss an earlier draft resolution on organ transplants after a similar anti-transplant campaign.

Saudi minister sees good relations with Yemen

JEDDAH (AP) — Despite tension, relations between Saudi Arabia and Yemen remain strong and will not be affected by charges aired in the media, the Saudi defence minister says.

In recent weeks, Yemen has accused neighbouring Saudi Arabia of financing opposition groups that boycotted parliamentary elections in April. Yemeni newspapers also have suggested that Saudi Arabia has meddled in the country's affairs.

"Brotherly relations between the Saudi and Yemeni people are strong and articles in newspapers cannot change that and they do not represent the stance of the Yemeni leadership or the Yemeni people," Prince Sultan, the Saudi defence minister, was quoted as saying Sunday by the official Saudi Press Agency.

Yemen and Saudi Arabia, the two largest countries in the Arabian Peninsula, signed economic and security agreements last year to fight crime and exchange intelligence. But they are still locked in a decades-long border dispute.

Attempt on Kuwaiti MP's life sparks debate over motives

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — The shooting of Kuwaiti MP Abdullah Naibari sparked a debate Monday over whether a personal vendetta provoked the assassination bid or if political issues are at stake.

The interior ministry has said it arrested three Kuwaitis and two Iranians, reported to be brothers, in connection with Friday's bid to kill the anti-corruption campaigner and liberal MP, who is recovering in hospital.

"We are worried that the interpretation of this case will be limited, as if it is the action of one person, as if it is a limited issue. This is not the case," said the editor-in-chief of the liberal political weekly Al Talia.

"With the Naibari case, this is the peak of the struggle between the Kuwaiti people" and those behind corruption in the emirate, Ahmad Nafisi said.

The case gives Kuwaitis the chance to "clean up their country," added the editor of Al Talia, a mouthpiece for the liberal movement and which counts Mr.

Naibari as one of its five official owners.

Mr. Naibari has been a vocal anti-corruption campaigner in the current parliament, and in the last parliament between 1992 and 1996 headed a "committee for the protection of public funds."

MPs have linked the attempted killing to Mr. Naibari's stand against corruption, while Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah called for calm and urged MPs not to link the case with "other issues."

The daily Al Anba on Monday called for Kuwaitis to avoid rumours and allow the investigation to run its course.

"Those who spread and listen to rumours are not satisfied that the interior ministry apparatus is limiting the suspects in the incident to five individuals," the paper said.

Diplomats said a personal vendetta could have prompted the attack in this conservative Gulf Arab state. But they pointed out that in Kuwait, personal and political differences can

overlap.

Mr. Naibari's brother said he thought the attack was linked to the MP's tough stand on corruption. "There are many people who wouldn't want to see him around," he said, without pointing a finger.

The MP, who was shot twice when gunmen sprayed his car as he drove back to Kuwait City from a southern resort, is making a quick recovery in hospital, Sea Captain Abdul Rahman Naibari told AFP.

"He is okay. He is in good health. He is recovering very quickly," he said.

Mr. Naibari said Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, who visited the MP on Saturday, offered a private plane if it was decided to send him abroad to aid his recovery.

Doctors have suggested the MP travel abroad mainly to escape the glare of publicity, although all the treatment he requires is available in Kuwait.

Jailed FIS leader slams Algerian vote

PARIS (AFP) — An Islamic leader jailed in the United States slammed last week's Algerian general elections as unconstitutional and "an electoral farce" in a statement received here Monday.

Anouar Haddam, who describes himself as the exiled head of the parliamentary delegation of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), urged the international community not to recognise the poll, which he said was tainted by "multiple fraud."

He called on parties who are not "allied to the ruling military dictatorship" not to take up seats in the new assembly and added that he recognised only the 1989 constitution, not the new constitution passed last year that excludes religious parties.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:35 French Programmes
16:00 Super Sports Follies
16:30 Dog House
17:00 Square One
17:10 The Album Show
18:10 French Programmes
19:00 News in French
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Couch
20:00 Doc. — Tilt
20:30 Encounter
21:10 Doc — Nature of Things
22:00 News in English
22:25 West Beach
23:00 Drug Wars

PRAYER TIMES

03:50 Fajr
05:25 (Sunrise) Duha
12:35 Dhuhur
16:15 'Asr
19:45 Maghreb
21:19 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweidhi, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church
Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation

Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel.

661757.

Terra Sancta Church Tel.

622366

Anglican Church Tel. 652826.

Armenian Catholic Church

Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church

Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel.

771751.

Amman International Church

Tel. 5516245

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical

Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel.

654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel.

675691.

The Evangelical Local Church

in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking

Latin Catholics Parish Tel.

614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Depart-

ment of Meteorology

Temperatures are expected to drop slightly becoming mild during the day and slightly cool at night with winds westerly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman16/27

Aqaba22/36

Deserts14/31

Jordan Valley21/35

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 31, Aqaba 41 Humidity

readings: Amman 46 per

cent, Aqaba 28 per cent.

USEFUL

TELEPHONE

NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Mukhlis Halaseh5519220

Dr. Rubi Sakkar856457

Dr. Yousef Al Faqih790104

Dr. Fadl Al Khatib865456

Ferdows pharmacy778336

Al Asema pharmacy637055

Al Salam pharmacy636730

Yacoub pharmacy644945

Shmeisani pharmacy637660

Nairoukh pharmacy623672

Najib pharmacy847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Qana281484

Al Quds pharmacy(—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Rabah Al Bourini.990312

Khalifeh pharmacy985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre637111

Civil Defence Dept.661111

Civil Defence Immediate Res-

cue630341

Civil Defence Emergency199

Rescue Police 192, 621111.

637777

Fire Brigade617101

Blood Bank775121

Highway Police843402

Traffic Police896390

Public Security Department

.....630321

Hotel Complaints605800

Price Complaints661176

Water and Sewerage Com-

plaints897467

Amman Municipality Com-

plaints787111

Telephone Information (direc-

tory assistance)121

Overseas Calls010230

Central Amman Telephone

Repairs623101

Abdafi Telephone Repairs

661101

Jordan Television773111

Radio Jordan774111

Water Authority680100

Jordan Electricity Authority

.....815615

Electric Power Company

636381

RJ Flight Information

0853200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-

53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre

813813/32

Khalidi Maternity64281/6

Akileh Maternity64241/2

Jabal Amman Maternity

.....642362

Malhas, J. Amman636140

Palestine Shmeisani607071

Shmeisani Hospital669131

University Hospital845845

Al-Musharraf Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdafi 666126/37

Italian, Al-Minhajreen 777101/3

Al-Bashir775111/26

Army, Marika891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital

602240/50

Amal Hospital674155

The Arab Centre for Heart

and Special Surgery865199

ZARQA:

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Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Monday meets with visiting Yugoslav Deputy Prime Minister Nicholas Sainovic to discuss bilateral ties, the peace process and regional developments (Petra photo)

Visiting Yugoslav officials seek advanced economic, trade relations

AMMAN (Petra) — Visiting Yugoslav Deputy Prime Minister Nicholas Sainovic Monday said his government was ready to offer expertise to Jordan in order to help it promote its tourism industry.

Mr. Sainovic arrived in Amman Sunday night at the head of an official delegation on a two-day visit. The Yugoslav official met with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour to review regional and international issues of common concern, with special focus on the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Sainovic expressed his country's appreciation of Jordan's participation in the U.N. peacekeeping force that served in Yugoslavia and reviewed the present situation in his country in the aftermath of the conflict there.

The two sides discussed means of promoting Jordanian-Yugoslav ties in trade and economic fields.

Dr. Ensour earlier met separately with Mr. Sainovic and reviewed developments in the Middle East peace process and Jordan's position with regard to a comprehensive settlement. Mr. Sainovic also Mon-

day met Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hani Mulki and discussed prospects for increasing the volume of trade and investments.

He also briefed Mr. Sainovic about the recent amendments to legislation governing economic and trade matters, the process of privatising public sector institutions and incentives for investors in Jordan.

Mr. Sainovic presented Dr. Mulki with a draft agreement on the protection of investments and ways for avoiding dual taxation.

RJ takes ownership of five Tristar aircraft, settles payments of lease/purchase accord

By Ghalia Alni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Royal Jordanian (RJ) on Monday paid its final instalment on its five Tristar aircraft leased for the past 10 years from Banque Indosuez, and with the option to purchase, the aircraft are now the property of the national air carrier.

RJ President Nader Dahabi told a press conference, after signing the agreement with Banque Indosuez, that per the lease/purchase contract, the airline paid \$2 million per month for the first five years, adding that the amount was reduced to \$1.5 million per month following a gradual decrease in interest.

"This shows that RJ was able to fulfil its commitments and improve its financial status. This will also help in providing the airline with more liquidity within the coming few months," Mr. Dahabi said.

Banque Indosuez First Vice President Anne Marie Siffroy said Banque Indosuez, which operates in 60

countries, has a department specialised in providing credit to airlines which cannot usually afford to purchase their own aircraft.

"The agreement (with RJ) would pave the way for future cooperation," Ms. Siffroy said.

Mr. Dahabi added that the five Tristar aircraft, which currently cost \$60 million, are the only aeroplanes of its 17-aircraft fleet now owned by RJ.

Mr. Dahabi added that RJ will continue to use the Tristar on its flights to North America and the Far East until the airline decides to replace them with new leased aeroplanes.

In addition, Mr. Dahabi told journalists that RJ initiated an agreement with French banks to reschedule the debts on its four Airbus aircraft, thus improving the airline's liquidity at a rate of \$2 million monthly.

RJ is expected to sign the agreement on June 19, but Mr. Dahabi added the agreement takes effect retroactively from November 1996.



Royal Jordanian President Nader Dahabi and Banque Indosuez First Vice President Anne Marie Siffroy Monday sign an agreement whereby RJ takes ownership of five Tristar aircraft which it has leased for the last 10 years. To Mr. Dahabi's right is RJ Vice President of Financial Affairs Ghassan Ali (RJ photo)

Majali congratulates Algeria on successful elections, restoring stability

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Monday congratulated his Algerian counterpart Ahmad Ouehli on the successful holding of his country's general elections.

In a cable, Dr. Majali said the elections served as a first step towards the resumption of construction of Algeria's democratic institutions, the national economy and the restoration of the country's stability.

Also Monday, Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawi voiced Jordan's "deep satisfaction with the success of the general elections in Algeria which were a victory for democracy over the forces of violence and terrorism, and which opened a new page in Algeria's modern history."

"With the elections, the Algerian people have made their choice, opting for a decent and stable life to resume the construction of the country's institutions and national economy towards a brighter and more progressive and prosperous future," Dr. Mutawi said.

He said the Algerian leaders' wisdom and their determination to resume democratic life are positive signs that have won the admiration of the whole world and the proponents of human rights.

Dr. Mutawi said "Jordan is deeply satisfied with and assured about the resumption of the democratic

process in Algeria which is bound to serve as steps towards ending the prolonged period of bloody violence."

In the elections which took place earlier this week President Liamine Zeroual's National Democratic Rally Party won 155 of the national assembly's 380 seats, while the pro-government National Liberation Front took 164 seats.

Voting which took place at 35,000 polling stations was monitored by 240 international observers under the auspices of the United Nations, the Arab League and the Organisation of African Unity.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Monday visits Minister of Social Development Mohammad Mansour who briefed the premier on the steps the ministry has taken to implement His Majesty King Hussein's directives concerning social development work (Petra photo)

JBA team to attend Paris business conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — Representatives of the Jordan Businessmen's Association (JBA) will travel to Paris today to attend the general conference of French and Jordanian businesspersons which will be opened on Thursday, a JBA statement said Monday.

The statement said His Majesty King Hussein will attend the opening session and deliver an address to the audience of around 200.

JBA Chairman Hamdi Tabbaa will himself head a 40-member JBA delegation representing various economic sectors and major firms in the Kingdom. Among the delegation will be representatives of the chambers of industry and

trade, the Jordanian Contractors Association, the National Oil Company, the Jordan Cement Factories Company, the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company and the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company.

According to the statement, the Jordanian participants will open side-meetings with their French counterparts on Wednesday, visit several French firms and factories, and discuss Jordanian-French investment projects.

Since the signing of an agreement establishing the Jordanian-French Business Council in 1994, the JBA has organised three visits to France for Jordanian business representatives.

Opposition parties panel launches awareness campaign against Turkey's moves into Iraq

By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Higher Committee for Coordination Among the Opposition Parties Monday launched a campaign to sensitise "the Arab people" on the need to take actions against what they deem as "the Turkish invasion of Iraq."

After a morning press conference held at the headquarters of the Islamic Action Front (IAF), Secretary General of Al Hashd (Jordan People's Democratic Party) Salem Nahhas told the Jordan Times the 11 parties grouped in the Higher Committee are planning to call a general meeting of all Arab parties.

"We feel that there is a need for all Arab parties to address, with a unified stand, the Turkish invasion of Iraqi soil," Mr. Nahhas said, adding that the projected conference might take place in Damascus and the 11 opposition parties have already initiated contacts with Syrian authorities.

Last year, the Arab parties established a General Secretariat in Amman, and appointed head of the pan-Arabist Al-Mustaqbal Party Suleiman Arar as its chair.

In a communiqué to Arab heads of state earlier this week, the 11 opposition parties had called for "a collective action to halt Turkey's aggression on Iraq and abort the ambitious designs of the Turkish-Israeli alliance."

Turkey started military operations in Iraq on May 14, deploying 25,000



The Higher Committee for Coordination Among the Opposition Parties Monday hold a press conference about a campaign against Turkey's moves into Northern Iraq (photo by F. Ciriaci)

troops backed by tanks and air power against the separatist Kurdish Labour Party.

The Anatolia news agency reported on Sunday that the Turkish government had announced the end of military incursions into northern Iraq, but the report was denied on Monday by Turkey's Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan. (See story on page

1).

"What is happening is affecting not only Iraq," Mr. Nahhas said, suggesting that the Turkish government would be pursuing a "grand design" involving the whole region.

"The [Turkish] move is aimed at putting pressure on Syria and Lebanon, and later on, the excuse of Turkish separatist movements might be used

against Iran, as well," he said.

Established in 1993, the Higher Committee includes representatives of a wide political spectrum, ranging from the Islamic Action Front (IAF) to the Jordan Communist Party (JCP).

Sharif Alawie from the Arab Ba'ath Progressive Party, Tayseer Homsi from the Jordanian Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party, Milhem

Tell from the Jordanian Arab Constitutional Front, Ahmad Zobi from the Freedom Party, Adnan Zuharan from Al Ansar, Munir Shariyah and Abdul Rahman Nahulsi, from the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party and the Jordanian Democratic Unionist Party respectively, and Mohammed Awaideh from the IAF jointly held the press conference.

NEWS IN BRIEF

72,000 sit for Tawjihi

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 72,000 students Monday sat for the General Secondary School Certificate (Tawjihi) examinations in all governorates. Ministry of Education officials said. The officials said 20,000 students who failed the exam last year will retake the tests beginning on Wednesday. Minister of Education and Higher Education Munther Masri inspected some schools in Amman Governorate.

Grading of the exams will start on Wednesday.

Temperatures to drop

AMMAN (Petra) — The Meteorology Department Wednesday reported that temperatures would be moderate over the next two days keeping within the seasonal average by dropping 4-6° Celsius on Tuesday and Wednesday, reaching a maximum of 27° C and a minimum of 16° C.

WHAT'S GOING ON

PLAY

* "Jadara Shines Anew" at the Royal Cultural Centre, at 8:00 p.m.

CONCERT

* Musical performance by the orchestra of the National Music Conservatory at the Prime Ministry's garden at 8:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Exhibition of American products at the Amman International Fair, Marj Al Hamam, until June 13.

* Photo exhibition entitled "Children of Planet Earth" by Takeyshi Tanuma at Haya Cultural Centre, Shmeisani, until June 12.

* Works by Abdul Basit Naqqash and Sa'd Hussein entitled "Heritage and Culture" at the gallery of the Jordan Plastic Artists Association, Jabal Weibdeh, until June 21.

* Exhibition on "The Beauty of the Jordanian Environment" by Omar Bassoul at the

Royal Cultural Centre, until June 12.

* Art exhibition by Ibrahim Al Abdali at the Orient Art Gallery, Shmeisani, Issam Ajlouni Street, until June 19.

* Paintings by Yassin Shakir at Hamourabi Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 5536098) until June 15.

* Works by Guy Ferrer at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh, until June 15.

* Works by Issam Tantawi at Al Husson Gallery, Irbid (Tel. 02/242680), until June 10.

* Spring Exhibition of Plastic Art '97 at Greater Amman Municipality, Ras Al 'Ain, until June 30.

* One-of-a-Kind artists' book exhibit at the American Centre, Abdoun, until June 25.

* Exhibition of works by Farouq Lambaz at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, until June 19. Also displaying works by Paris-based Moroccan artist Najia Mahadji, until June 12, as well as showing an exhibition by architectural photographer Said Nuseibah entitled "The Farthest Mosque" and by contemporary Arab artists.

Shevardnadze slams Russia over Black Sea Fleet row

TBILISI (R) — Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze slammed Russia Monday for what he said was its "heartless" refusal to allow his country a share of the former Soviet Black Sea Fleet.

Russia and Ukraine resolved their five-year dispute over the fleet last month, leaving three months to agree on how to divide up ships and property. The fleet's main base is in what is now the Ukrainian city of Sevastopol.

But Kremlin officials said Georgian claims to a share of it were "groundless." The mountainous country of about six million has about 350 kilometres of Black Sea Coast, much of which is occupied by secessionist Abkhaz forces in the north-west.

"Some Russian bureaucrats and state officials have reacted very heartlessly and even cynically to our requests to hand over to us a share of the former Soviet Black Sea Fleet," Mr. Shevardnadze said in his weekly radio address.

Mr. Shevardnadze, a for-

mer Soviet Foreign Minister, said the issue threatened overall Georgian-Russian relations. "Such an attitude makes it difficult to develop a strategic partnership between Georgia and Russia," he said.

The dispute over the fleet comes as Russia's peacekeeping mission in Georgia's secessionist-minded province of Abkhazia is coming under increasing criticism by Tbilisi.

Georgia wants the withdrawal of the 2,500-strong force, stationed in a zone along the de-facto Abkhaz-Georgian border, after Aug. 1 if Moscow does not agree to patrol more of Abkhazia and help resettle Georgian refugees.

Interior Minister Kakha Targamadze Sunday accused members of the force of involvement in "unlawful arrests, savage murders, and punitive operations" against Georgian civilians living in the so-called security zone since they began patrols in 1994.

"There have been many such facts," he said, speaking on Georgian television.

He listed individual cases of what he claimed were violent acts committed by the peacekeepers.

Mr. Shevardnadze said they showed the need to "analyse and fully think through the work of the peacekeepers and their mission as a whole."

Mr. Targamadze said that 183 Georgian complaints to Russian military prosecutors had brought no action.

Abkhaz separatist leader Vladislav Ardzimba arrived in Moscow Sunday for talks with Russian officials. He voiced fears of renewed conflict with Georgia if the peacekeepers leave.

Abkhazia, a lush subtropical Black Sea region, has enjoyed de facto independence since 1993 when its fighters routed Georgian forces. But not a single country has recognised its sovereignty.

Peace talks are deadlocked, with the Abkhaz demanding more sovereignty than Tbilisi says it will tolerate.

Mr. Ardzimba told Interfax News Agency: "After a withdrawal of the Russian

peacekeepers, the sequence of events could lead to a renewal of the conflict."

Mr. Ardzimba told NTV television: "The peacekeepers should stay in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone just as long as is necessary for the peace process."

He said a peaceful settlement with Tbilisi was possible and called on the Georgian government to make constructive proposals.

Both sides insist they would not open hostilities.

Last month Mr. Shevardnadze offered to reopen stalled peace talks but ruled out Mr. Ardzimba's calls for a deal similar to the one Russia gave Chechnya recently.

The Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of former Soviet Republics grouped in the Commonwealth of Independent States issued a call for renewed negotiations on a settlement.

Meeting in St Petersburg Sunday, delegates voiced worries over the lack of progress following the 1992-93 war that left an estimated 10,000 dead and many more homeless refugees.

U.S., Japan and South Korea hold talks on North Korea

SEOUL (R) — The United States, Japan and South Korea held talks in Seoul Monday to coordinate policies on North Korea, which is seeking international aid to avert a serious famine, South Korean officials said.

The one-day discussions reviewed food shortages in the North and steps to encourage Pyongyang to join peace talks, they said.

The meeting was led by Charles Kartman, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Yu Myung-Hwan, a Director-General at the South Korean Foreign Ministry, and his Japanese counterpart, Ryoze Kato.

"There have been no breakthroughs in recent weeks but the United States and South Korea remain hopeful North Korea will accept our proposal for four-party peace talks," Seoul's Foreign Ministry spokesman Lee Kyu-Hyung said.

"There are signs that North Korea is moving towards accepting the peace proposal," Mr. Kyu-Hyung told Reuters. No details were given.

The four-nation peace talks, involving the two Koreas, the United States and China, are designed to secure a peace treaty to replace an armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean War.

"China has pledged active participation while Russia has expressed its support for the proposal," Mr. Kyu-Hyung added.

North Korea in April agreed to join the four-nation talks if it was first guaranteed large-scale food aid and an easing of U.S. trade sanctions.

Washington and Seoul have said substantial aid to North Korea could be discussed during peace talks, although humanitarian assistance would be provided to help stave off a catastrophe.

Last week, a top United Nations official said North Korea was teetering on the edge of "a major humanitarian crisis" and needed outside help within weeks.

Peter McDermott, deputy director of emergency programmes at the United Nations Children's Fund, said after a trip to the North that all the signs of a crisis were in place.

He said the Pyongyang government would have to stop a paltry daily ration of 100 grammes of rice to its citizens on June 20 as food supplies and fuel dry up.

The World Food Programme, a United Nations agency, so far this year has appealed for 200,000 tonnes of food for North Korea, or about \$95 million.

The United States has pledged \$25 million and South Korea \$16 million. Japan has held back food aid, partly due to anger over charges that North Korea kidnapped a Japanese schoolgirl in 1977 and spirited her

to Pyongyang.

Officials in Seoul, Tokyo and Washington worry that a desperate North Korean leadership might strike the south if an economic crisis threatened its survival.

But Mr. Kyu-Hyung said Seoul and its allies have agreed Pyongyang must not be allowed to use participation in the four-way talks as leverage to extract food assistance.

On Monday, nine South Korean Red Cross officials left for China to oversee the delivery of 11,200 tonnes of corn to North Korea from June 12 and 18.

The corn, to be delivered via China, is the first of 30,000 tonnes of food the South Korean Red Cross pledged to supply to the north by the end of July.

At the border village of Panmunjom Monday, North Korea handed a note guaranteeing safety of southern Red Cross officials delivering the supplies, a Seoul official said.

Meanwhile, nine South Korean Red Cross workers arrived in Beijing Monday on the first leg of a mission to take 11,200 tonnes of corn to North Korea's starving people.

They will be the first Southern officials to deliver South Korean food aid to the rival North since Pyongyang first appealed for international aid after disastrous floods in 1995. North Korea has admitted that children are dying from starvation.

Previous shipments had been handed over and monitored by the International Association of Red Cross Societies (IARCS).

The nine were to obtain visas from the North Korean embassy Tuesday, a South Korean embassy official said, before splitting up to go to three cities along the Sino-North Korean border where the corn will be taken in by train.

"The South Korean delegates are expected to take part with their North Korean counterparts in brief ceremonies to mark the handover of the food in the three cities Thursday," Red Cross spokesman Lee Chong-Kun said in Seoul.

After the handover at Sinuiju, Manpo and Namyang along the Yalu and Tumen rivers, distribution will be monitored by the IARCS.

North Korea Saturday conveyed a formal assurance that the safety of the delegates would be guaranteed.

And on Monday the Red Cross in Seoul said it had received a written pledge of "full security for South Korean delegates when they enter the North side" signed by Paek Hak-Rim, a top official in the North's Public Security Ministry. The pledge was handed over at the truce village of Panmunjom on the demilitarised zone between the two Koreas hours after the delegation had left for Beijing, a Red Cross spokesman said.

Exit ban slapped on wanted S. Korean radical student leaders

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korean prosecutors Monday issued an exit ban on 99 radical student leaders as police directed special flying squads armed with arrest orders to raid campuses countrywide, reports said.

The special teams were ordered to move in immediately after a meeting of senior investigators in Seoul approved the wanted list of 227 radicals known to be at large after violent demonstrations in Seoul over the past weeks left two dead.

The prosecutors, after a separate meeting here, issued bans on the 99 most sought-after students leaving the country and called for inter-security agency co-operation to hunt down the radicals.

So far 1,262 students have been questioned and 225 arrested in the wake of the violence that broke out on May 28 and raged for a week leaving one riot policeman dead, and a 23-year-old worker tortured to death in the belief he was a police informer.

Police have arrested two members of the Radical National Association of Student Councils (Hanchongryon) who gave them-

selves up after admitting they took part in the torture and murder.

But police said Monday they had established the radicals had tried to cover up the involvement of top Hanchongryon leaders in the lynching.

Topping the arrest list is Hanchongryon head Kang Wui-Woon, police said.

Meanwhile press reports said Hanyang University, which was at the hub of the violence in Seoul, had decided to sue Hanchongryon for 108.6 million won (\$121,000) in damages.

While U.S. forces would be responsible for restoring peace and security in areas surrounding Japan, Japan's Self Defence Forces "will conduct such activities as intelligence gathering, surveillance and minesweeping to protect lives and property to ensure navigational safety," the report said.

The issues are delicate ones for Japan which has a post-World War II pacifist constitution that bars it from using its military except in self-defence.

Japan needs to consider emergency defence laws — Kajiyama

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan needs to consider formulating legislation that will establish measures to handle defense emergencies, following a report on revising U.S.-Japan defence guidelines, a top government spokesman said Monday.

"Considering what Japan's defence should be like, there are issues that need to be addressed by making a law," Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama said, referring to the report released in Hawaii Saturday.

"This is not to fuel worries but it is only natural that we consider such (emergency) issues at a peace time," Mr. Kajiyama told a regular press conference.

"I hope discussions on the legislation will deepen in the process of reviewing the guidelines," he added. The report on reviewing the 1978 U.S.-Japan defence guidelines is to be completed in late 1997.

Meanwhile, Social Democratic Party (SDP) leader Takako Doi was cautious not to extend an outright support to the review, hinting at launching a political debate with its parliamentary ally and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

"From summer to autumn, we need to tackle issues concerning our country's future direction and the basis of people's life," Mrs. Doi told a meeting of a teachers' union.

"I declare here that the Social Democratic Party will not leave the true nature of issues ambiguous but handle the question with a clear policy of the party," she said.

The seven-page report outlined limited, but significant support by Japan's Self Defence Forces (SDF) for the U.S. military if an emergency erupts close to but outside of Japanese territory.

While U.S. forces would be responsible for restoring peace and security in areas surrounding Japan, Japan's Self Defence Forces "will conduct such activities as intelligence gathering, surveillance and minesweeping to protect lives and property to ensure navigational safety," the report said.

The issues are delicate ones for Japan which has a post-World War II pacifist constitution that bars it from using its military except in self-defence.



A unknown man (3R) leaves, guarded by plain-clothed policemen, a Boeing 737 jet of Malta's Air Malta airline at the Airport Cologne-Bonn Monday. The hijack of the plane, with about 80 people on board, ended peacefully when two men gave themselves up after handing their weapons to the pilot (Reuter photo)

Hijack peacefully ends in Cologne; 2 surrender

COLOGNE (R) — A hijack of an Air Malta airliner with about 80 people on board ended peacefully Monday when two men gave themselves up after handing their weapons to the pilot.

Police spokesman Werner Schmidt said the two men left the plane with their hands in the air. He said it was not yet clear who the men were or what weapons they had carried but police immediately searched the aircraft and had found no explosives.

Police had earlier reported one hijacker saying he had a bomb and demanding the release of Turkish gunman Mehmet Ali Agca, who is serving a life sentence in Italy after trying to assassinate the Pope in 1981.

The hijack of the Boeing 737 after it left Malta on a

flight to Istanbul, Turkey, with 74 passengers and six crew ended without injury.

"The assailants have given themselves up," Mr. Schmidt told reporters at Cologne-Bonn Airport 15 kilometres south of the city of Cologne.

"They gave themselves up after successful negotiations. All the hostages have been released and were unharmed and in good health," Mr. Schmidt said.

The hijackers had let five people leave the plane earlier, one of them a woman with heart problems.

Mr. Schmidt said it was not clear what type of weapons the two were carrying. He said among the hostages there were 17 Turks, 32 Libyans, 32 Maltese, one Russian and one U.S. citizen.

One of the hijackers, who negotiated with police

through a Turkish-speaking interpreter, had initially requested an interview with a television crew, but before this could take place the assailants gave themselves up, Mr. Schmidt said.

After landing at the busy Cologne-Bonn Airport, the airliner stood at a freight section and German police quickly established contact with one of the hijackers.

Police did not say if they yet knew their identities or nationalities but earlier had reported a demand by one of them.

"He asked for Ali Agca, the Pope's (would-be) assassin, to be released," Mr. Schmidt said.

Pope John Paul was shot in the hand and abdomen as he rode in an open jeep before thousands at his general audience in St. Peter's Square in Rome in 1981.

Emergency surgery saved his life.

Mr. Agca, whom the Pope later forgave publicly and visited in jail, was wrestled to the ground by pilgrims, including a nun, and is serving a life sentence in Italy.

Air Malta spokesman John Saliba said the plane left Malta for Istanbul at 23.45 GMT and was diverted to Cologne "following a situation that developed on board, and demands made by one of the passengers."

The hijacking was the first involving an Air Malta aircraft since the airline was formed in the early 1970s and the first hijack of a flight originating in Malta.

Air Malta has a growing network of services to Europe, North Africa and the Middle East including three weekly flights to Turkey.

Bosnian Serbs withdraw support for economic laws

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Serb leaders have withdrawn their support for economic legislation considered crucial to building the peacetime state, diplomats said Monday.

Only weeks after agreeing on draft laws for customs rates and the formation of a central bank, Serb leaders raised fresh objections about the legislation, threatening to paralyse the central government, said diplomats, who asked not to be named.

"The leadership decided it couldn't accept some elements of the legislation," said one diplomat. "They've gone back on the agreements."

Indicted war criminal and former Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic was believed to have participated in the decision to renege on the agreements, diplomats said.

The Serb reversal could force the postponement of an international donors' conference for reconstruction aid and scupper a \$100 million deal with the IMF.

At a summit in Portugal held on May 30, major powers welcomed the economic agreements and as a result scheduled an international donors' conference in Brussels for June 24.

The International Monetary Fund had demanded adoption of the package of laws as a condition for signing an \$100 million agreement with Bosnia.

Diplomats said it was possible the fund-raising conference would be held without representatives from the country's Serb entity, because the Muslim-Croat Federation had fulfilled its obligations.

At the summit in Sintra, Portugal, the United States and European powers demanded Bosnian leaders make good on their commitments under the peace agreement and threatened to penalise those parties that failed to do so.

The Bosnian Minister of Foreign Trade, Hasan Muratovic, said that the Serbs had altered their position on the economic laws and that the donors' conference would probably go ahead without them, local media quoted him as saying Sunday.

The Serbs rejected a harmonisation of customs rates between the country's Muslim-Croat Federation and the Serb Republic because it did not conform to an agreement on mutual cooperation with neighbouring Yugoslavia, diplomats said.

Western governments say the cooperation pact between Bosnia's Serb entity and Yugoslavia violates the Dayton Peace Agreement because it was negotiated without consultation with Muslim and Croat partners in the Bosnian government.

Even Yugoslav officials say the pact has no legal validity unless the Bosnian Joint Parliament approves it.

"They are using an uncon-

stitutional agreement as a reason for backtracking on the customs law," the diplomat said.

It was unclear why the Serbs had withdrawn their support for a draft central bank law, which was due to be adopted this month by the Parliament.

Talks over the proposed central bank had dragged on for months until U.S. envoy Robert Gelbard announced an agreement on a draft law before the Portugal summit, hailing it as a breakthrough.

Bosnia's new central government, comprised of a joint presidency, cabinet and parliament, is supposed to rule over autonomous Serb and Muslim-Croat territories under terms of the Dayton Accords.

But the government has been virtually paralysed until last month, when international pressure at last produced tentative agreements on a central bank, a harmonisation of customs rates and a state budget law.

"They are using an uncon-

Dragon Boats knife through H. Kong seas in Gala

HONG KONG (R) — International crews paddled furiously to drum-beats as hundreds of dragon boats flying colourful flags knifed through waters around Hong Kong Monday in annual races marking the suicide of Chinese statesman-poet Qu Yuan over 2,000 years ago.

The exuberant water festival had bitter-sweet overtones in the Western expatriate stronghold of Stanley on the south shore where British forces competed in the races for the last time. Hong Kong will be handed over to China at midnight on June 30.

"The majority of the expatriate teams will continue to compete after the handover but what we will miss is the British forces who have been an important part of the festival for a long time," said Joop Litmaath, an organiser of the Stanley races for the past 14 years.

"We must fill the gap left by the British forces but God knows how. Perhaps the PLA (China's People's Liberation Army) will want to take their place. We will invite the PLA certainly because they will be occupying Stanley Fort where the British are now."

Pipers from Britain's Black Watch Brigade performed on the beach to mark the dragon boat final competition of British forces.

"It's my first dragon boat race and my last," said piper Jimmy Anderson, a private in the Black Watch, as he sat in the shade and enjoyed the races. "It's wicked (marvellous) to watch. Looks like great fun."

British forces were involved in the most spectacular finish in Stanley history in 1976 when a Grenadier Guards crew crossed the finish line at top speed only to ram a sampan amidsthips, slicing it in half.

While the races in Stanley had a distinctly expatriate look and feel on Monday, most of the competitions around Hong Kong were among Chinese crews.

"Tuen Ng (Dragon Boat) is a Chinese festival but the expats have got involved in some of the races over the past couple of decades," said Ho Yuk Ping as he watched a race on the north side of the island.

"Everyone in Hong Kong works hard but you can see today that we know how to play hard too."

The Dragon Boat races reenact the frantic, vain attempts of fishermen to save Qu Yuan, who threw himself in the Mi Lo River in despair at having been accused of treason by the corrupt Chinese government of his time.

Dug-out canoes ranging in length from 12 to 24 metres — with fierce, painted dragon heads carved on their prows — compete in heats from a standing start.

Each boat has a steersman, a drummer and a crew ranging from 18 to 40 people depending on the length of the craft. Placid seas and intermittently overcast weather with generally light winds provided near perfect conditions for the festival, which drew huge crowds to waterfront venues around the territory.

In Stanley the best seats for the races were on ranks of yachts moored either side of the course. Motor launches ferried invited guests to the yachts from the beach, which swarmed with crews, sporting trademark T-shirts and wild head-gear, spectators and race officials.

A woman's team sponsored by the Economist Group wore shirts which said: "If more women read the Economist there'd be fewer jobs for the boys." A men's team called the Scandinavian Vikings wore hats complete with Viking horns.

"The competition gets better every year. There's more training and better organisation," said Mike Sinfield, an official at the Stanley Races. "Certainly there's more and more beer drunk. In the end it's glorious amateurism."

Landslide kills 150 in China

BEIJING (AFP) — A landslide swept away four villages in China's southwestern Sichuan province, leaving at least 150 people feared dead, a local official said Monday.

"We no longer have any hope of recovering survivors," Meigu county official Gao Mingjie told AFP, adding that three people were confirmed dead and 147 were missing from the disaster in the early hours of last Thursday.

The torrent of mud and rocks turned parts of the four villages in the mountainous Yangshanzhou region of the southwestern province into a lake of mud, he said.

It carried the bodies that were recovered "very far" from their villages, he said, adding that 84 houses were destroyed and 223 were damaged. Those left homeless had been evacuated to shelters in neighbouring areas.

All 1,527 inhabitants of the villages were members of the Yi ethnic minority, Mr. Gao said. The risk of further landslides was expected to remain high for another three to four days.

Sichuan Provincial Government and Civil Affairs Ministry officials were Monday to inspect the site, located in the Daliang Mountains close to the Yunnan province border.

Two massive landslides at a gold mine in Yunnan last June left 277 people dead or missing. More than 60 people were reported killed in other landslides around the country last year.

Many of southwestern China's ethnic minorities live in steep mountainside villages that afford poor agriculture and little protection against the elements.

Heavy rains in neighbouring Hunan province also caused flash floods early Saturday, killing about 30 people and leaving eight missing, according to the most recent figures.

More than 66,000 buildings have been damaged in the cities of Changsha and Liuyang as well as in Changsha county, forcing the evacuation of 113,000 people.

Some areas saw close to 30 centimetres of rainfall in 12 hours, causing the local Xiang and Liuyang rivers to swell uncontrollably.

Initial estimates put total damage at 1.33 billion yuan (\$160 million).

Local Red Cross officials reached Monday said the provincial government had yet to update casualty and damage tolls.

More heavy rains were expected early this week in the area, raising the danger of renewed flooding.

The summer rainy season in China each year causes flooding and landslides around the country that claim thousands of lives.

The first serious wave of 1997 flooding began early last month in coastal Fujian province, where powerful rains led to the deaths of at least 16 people in Putian, Quanzhou, Xiamen and Zhangzhou.

A week later, at least 105 people were killed and more than 360,000 forced to leave their homes by heavy flooding and landslides in southern Guangdong province. Entire villages were reported destroyed by landslides, primarily in the northern part of the province.

Some of the worst floods in recent memory hit Eastern and Southeastern China in 1996, killing more than 3,000 people and causing economic losses of \$26.5 billion, according to official estimates. The country's economic development has contributed to steadily rising damage tolls from the disasters over the last decade.



Sierra Leone soldiers patrol through the streets as residents of Freetown march by in a rally for peace. Some 2,000 Freetown residents attended a rally which called for a peaceful solution to the conflict and against any intervention, specifically from the Nigerian ECOMOG peacekeepers (Reuter photo)

S. Leone coupmakers sound intervention alarm

FREETOWN (R) — Sierra Leone's coupmakers say they fear that foreign military intervention to restore ousted civilian President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah is imminent and are concerned about the loss of life and property it would cause.

With regional giant Nigeria reinforcing in the West African country and the U.N. Security Council due to meet on the crisis Monday, the leaders of the May 25 coup made a veiled appeal to the international community to rally against any attack.

But the army dissidents' rebel allies, who have flooded into the capital since the coup and who took control of an airport near a key Nigerian military base Friday, said Nigerian troops should leave Freetown at once.

"If Nigerian troops attack the positions of the People's Army we will fight them to the death," rebel Commander Captain Johannes Roberts said Sunday at Hastings Airport, which Nigeria had been using to fly in troops and supplies.

A planned Sunday rally against foreign intervention drew relatively little support despite an appeal from the soldiers for residents of the former British colony's capital to turn out in force to demonstrate their opposition to a military strike.

Nigeria, which has denounced the coup, is widely expected to strike again after a show of force last Monday turned south when its gunboats shelled the city and dissident soldiers and rebels attacked Nigerian positions, forcing them on the defensive.

Nigerian troops are digging trenches at their base about three kilometres from Hastings and flying in more men from the Monrovia

headquarters of the Nigerian-led ECOMOG regional force, which already had troops in Sierra Leone before the coup.

About 5,000 people turned out at the 50,000-capacity national stadium for Sunday's prayer meeting attended by Armed Forces Ruling Council (AFRC) Chairman Major Johnny Paul Koroma.

"It now only remains for me to appeal to the international community to hear the cry and concern of the nation against this imminent threat of invasion of our country, which will no doubt bring more destruction of life and property to our historic city," Maj. Koroma said in a speech read on his behalf.

He said the alliance between the army and the Rebel Revolutionary United Front, which took up arms in 1991, had ended the insecurity of six years of civil war and it was now safe to travel all over the interior.

The coup leaders accuse Mr. Kabbah of blocking peace with the rebels, humiliating the army and fomenting ethnic hatred by arming Kamajor traditional hunters and setting them up as a civil defence militia.

"If President Kabbah was to come back, through military intervention, he would see a devastated city full of corpses," the AFRC chairman told reporters before the prayer meeting.

The coup makers have sent envoys to meet West African leaders to explain their takeover and seek their support.

They have also been meeting civilian politicians trying to persuade them to join a government of national unity. So far no one has accepted.

Sri Lanka troops edge closer to rebel town

COLOMBIA (R) — Sri Lankan troops overcame stiff resistance from separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas to edge closer to a rebel-held junction town in the island's north, the Defence Ministry said Monday.

Troops, backed by artillery and tanks, Sunday took the village of Periyamadu in the rebels' northern Wanni heartland, just south of the town of Puliyanakulam, a Ministry spokesman told Reuters.

"Our artillery and air attacks caused heavy casualties among the terrorists," the spokesman said.

A Defence Ministry statement said troops confirmed between 15 to 20 Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels had been killed and more than 60 wounded in Sunday's fighting.

Five soldiers were killed while one officer and eight soldiers had been wounded, the statement added.

The LTTE's clandestine Voice of Tigers Radio, monitored in Vavuniya, said army artillery shells had landed at Mankulam, about 40 kilometres north of Puliyanakulam, along the army's path of advance.

"At least 25 shells were fired at Mankulam Sunday afternoon. Everything was demolished — houses, buildings and shops," the radio said.

It said seven civilians were killed and at least 15 were wounded. Casualties would have been higher had the town's market been open, it added.

The military denied the rebels' report, saying it had only engaged identified rebel targets.

Independent confirmation of events is not possible as international media have not been allowed into the war zone.

Some 20,000 government troops are advancing on two flanks into the mostly shrub-covered rebel stronghold.

The army captured the towns of Ommathai, 14 kilometres north of Vavuniya on one flank, and Nedunkeni, 40 kilometres northeast of Vavuniya on the other, in an offensive codenamed "Operation Jaya Sikuru", or "Sure Of Victory," launched on May 13.

Vavuniya is 220 kilometres north of the capital Colombo. Deputy Defence Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte said last week the offensive's aim was to open a land supply route to Jaffna, 100 kilometres further north of Vavuniya, that would help rehabilitation work there.

The north-south highway has been closed for more than 10 years due to the war which began in 1983. The LTTE are fighting for a separate homeland for minority Tamils in mainly Sinhalese Sri Lanka's north and east.

The government says more than 50,000 have been killed

since the fighting began. The rebels say the toll is higher.

Meanwhile, Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga Monday sacked her Transport Minister and brought eight new faces into her cabinet in the first reshuffle since her People's Alliance (PA) government took power in 1994.

Mrs. Kumaratunga's new cabinet did not include Srimani Athulathmudali, leader of the PA constituent Democratic United National Front (DUNLF), who had held the transport job.

Political sources said Mr. Athulathmudali was sacked from the cabinet following recent sharp differences between DUNLF and the government over policy matters.

Mrs. Kumaratunga also changed the portfolios of some of her ministers in an attempt to ease workload and rationalise work, officials said.

The reshuffle raised Mrs. Kumaratunga's cabinet strength to 31 from the earlier 23. The cabinet includes Prime Minister Srimavo Bandaranaike and Mrs. Kumaratunga herself.

Mrs. Kumaratunga kept the key finance and defence portfolios, but let go of an important Religious Ministry which handles Buddhist affairs. That portfolio was given to Lakshman Jayakody, the Minister for Cultural and Religious Affairs.

Sri Lanka is a predominantly Buddhist country and the clergy has traditionally played an important role in politics. Foreign affairs stayed with Lakshman Kadirgamar. Both Mrs. Bandaranaike and Mr. Kadirgamar are currently overseas.

Mrs. Bandaranaike is in China for medical treatment and Mr. Kadirgamar is visiting London.

The state radio said the information portfolio was taken away from Minister Dharmasiri Senanayake, leaving him with tourism and civil aviation.

Mangala Samaraweera, a close confidant of Mrs. Kumaratunga, was given the Information Ministry and kept his previous job as Posts and Telecommunications Minister.

The government was recently embarrassed over its proposed broadcast bill, designed to curb the private radio and television stations by making it necessary for them to renew their licences each year and it was widely speculated that Mr. Senanayake's portfolios would be pruned.

The bill was shot down by the Supreme Court last month after it was challenged by various media organisations as well as the main opposition United National Party.

Labour Minister Mahinda Rajapakse, who was mostly seen as pro-labour by the business lobby, was shifted to fisheries and aquatic resources.

Three killed as Rwandan army steps up operations

RUHENGARI (AFP) — Rwandan security forces killed three suspected Hutu militiamen just outside the northwestern town of Ruhengeri Saturday, an official said.

Battles in the region between soldiers of the Tutsi-dominated army and Hutu guerrillas have left scores dead since last month, officials said.

The prefect of Ruhengeri, Boniface Rucagu, said the Tutsi-dominated army had killed the three so-called infiltrators before dawn Saturday about five kilometres west of the town.

Local people said the bodies had been left lying

where they were killed because no one wanted to collect them and be associated with the militiamen. The army has been cracking down hard both on militiamen and on those suspected of assisting them.

A security official in the town said military operations were in full swing in the surrounding area. He said the road southwest to Gisenyi — which was briefly closed last week after an ambush — was now clear. But he warned against straying off the main road to the town on the border with Rwanda.

At Rwankeri and Byangabo, the scene of two attacks last Thursday, people were packing their belongings and heading west.

Women carrying mattresses, tools and small children squeezed into already overloaded minibuses. They said they were leaving because they were scared of the fighting. One local resident, Abdallah Salim Nzabarinza, said he and his family had fled into the hills when they heard gunfire Thursday. He said they had only just come home and did not know how many people had been killed.

He said there had been gunbattles in all the surrounding hills. Other local people said they thought

around 14 people had been killed in the two attacks.

The wreckage of an ambushed military lorry and a pickup truck could be seen on the road nearby. Hutu militiamen, or Interahamwe, have become increasingly active in the northwestern prefectures of Ruhengeri and Gisenyi.

The authorities in Kigali have linked the recent return of around 40,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees from the former Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of Congo, to the rise in violent incidents.

They believe that returning refugees are taking up arms again.

Taleban claim advance in offensive north of Kabul

CHARIKAR, (AFP) — The Taleban militia claimed territorial gains in a pre-dawn attack on opposition troops Monday, but fell short of capturing the key northern town of Jabal Os-Siraj, witnesses said.

"We have captured parts of the jungle area to the right side of the main highway," Maulavi Abdul Raouf of the fundamentalist Taleban told AFP.

The jungle is a heavily wooded area to the south-east of the strategic Jabal Os-Siraj town, 77 kilometres north of Kabul.

However, the town was apparently still held by fighters of opposition Commander Ahmad Shah Masood, witnesses said. Mr. Raouf said the Taleban secured a section of the main highway between their Charihar base and Jabal Os-Siraj in the heavy infantry fighting supported by tank and other artillery fire.

The Taleban had also taken numerous Masood fighters prisoner, he said.

For the past 10 days an estimated force of 4,000 Taleban, based in the Farwan provincial capital of Charihar, 65 kilometres north of Kabul, have been attempting to dislodge Commander Masood's men from Jabal Os-Siraj, 13 kilometres further north.

Meanwhile, the Taleban militia Sunday denounced Iran for halting the flow of most goods through its land border with Afghanistan.

"This is a violation of international protocols," a senior Taleban official, Wakil Ahmad, told Reuters by telephone from the militia's headquarters in Kandahar in Southern Afghanistan.

"Iran is closing its eyes to its international obligations and commitments," he said.

Iran may have been responding to last week's closure by the Taleban of its Kabul embassy and expulsion of its staff for alleged interference in Afghan affairs — a charge Iran denies.

Mr. Ahmad said the embassy had been involved in espionage and had no right to operate in Kabul since Iran did not recognise the Taleban government set up after the city's capture from then-President Burhanuddin Rabbani in September.

Traders in Dubai, source of many of the electronic and household goods imported by Afghanistan, often for onward shipment to Pakistan, said Iran had closed the passage of goods through the Afghan border town of Islam Qila.

Diplomats in the western Afghan city of Herat confirmed that Iran had stopped most goods from crossing

for the past three days, but said food and diesel continued to be smuggled through.

Afghan traders in the Pakistani border city of Peshawar said they planned to raise the issue with Pakistani Foreign Minister Gohar Ayub Khan at a meeting in Islamabad Monday.

The cross-border trade from Iran has been one of the purist Islamic movement's main sources of revenue.

Mr. Ahmad said Taleban forces had clashed with pro-Rabbani infiltrators from Iran in the western province of Farah Saturday. He said the infiltrators had been forced to flee, leaving several dead and several vehicles behind.

He said the Taleban would protest to the United Nations over what he described as "open aggression" by Iran.

Mr. Ahmad said the Taleban would also lodge a complaint with the United Nations over an incident in which he said a helicopter had flown military supplies from Tajikistan to opposition forces in northern Afghanistan Saturday.

He said the three Afghan pilots then flew the helicopter to Kabul and turned themselves over to the Taleban. "This proves foreign interference in Afghanistan's affairs," he added.

Himalayan landslides kill 28 in India

GANGTOK, (R) — Torrential rains triggered a series of powerful landslides in the Himalayan Mountains in Northeastern India and killed at least 28 people, burying many victims in their sleep, authorities said Monday.

The Police Chief in Sikkim state, P.C. Sharma, said 38 people were injured overnight in at least nine landslides in the state capital, Gangtok.

In one incident, a wave of mud and boulders swept a four-storey building on to two government bungalows, crushing nine people, Mr. Sharma said. A guard protecting the state governor's residence was swept away to his death.

The Police Chief said 24 bodies had so far been recovered and the army had been called out to assist in relief operations and pull bodies from the rubble.

Other people were still believed buried under debris, and the death toll was expected to rise, he said.

"I heard a loud noise around nine last evening and rushed out along with my family members and took shelter on the road," survivor Shipintso Bhutia told Reuters.

"Seconds after I saw the hillside tumbling down which took away my house," Nine people were buried alive when the landslide hit the building, he said.

Mountainous Sikkim is hedged in by Tibet in the north, Nepal in the west and Bhutan in the east. It was annexed by India in 1975 after its legislature voted to abolish the monarchy and join the Indian union.

Landslides are common in the region during the monsoon, which usually hits Sikkim later in the year. Gangtok, at about 5,000 feet altitude, is ringed by steep mountains that rise to about 8,000 feet.

"We are accustomed to landslides here and there, but this time it's something very serious," Mr. Sharma said. The landslides occurred between 9 p.m. (1530 GMT) Sunday and 1 a.m. (1930 GMT Sunday) Monday.

About 100 families who lost their homes were evacuated to seven relief camps.

The heavy rains cut power and water supplies, and the government restricted the movements of private vehicles and ordered offices closed for two days, he said.

Shelling shakes Congo Brazzaville

BRAZZAVILLE (R) — Shells landed near the centre of the Congolese capital Brazzaville Monday as clashes between a political militia and troops loyal to the President entered their fifth day.

French troops in the city were evacuating their nationals to the French military base. France was sending another 500 troops to reinforce the 450 already in Brazzaville.

Clashes between militia followers of ex-President Denis Sassou Nguesso and troops loyal to President Pascal Lissouba began Thursday after soldiers enforcing a ban on private militias surrounded Mr. Sassou Nguesso's house.

It was not clear who fired the shells. In the Baongo district, which has so far been relatively untouched by fighting because it is the fiefdom of a militia which has so far been neutral, witnesses said a shell had landed killing one person.

France's decision to send more troops to its former colony followed the death of a French soldier in a firefight and reports from French nationals who fled the city of hostility towards them.

French officials said reinforcements would start arriving Monday from French bases in other African countries.

The United States Sunday ordered non-essential U.S. embassy employees and dependents of embassy personnel to leave and advised other Americans to do the same.

Refugees crossing the river to Kinshasa in Laurent Kabila's Congo Sunday said the fighting appeared to be more widespread than in 1993, when 2,000 people were killed in the capital following disputed parliamentary elections.

They refugees spoke of bodies littering the streets but no reliable death toll was available.

Mr. Lissouba's government accused Mr. Sassou Nguesso in a statement on state radio Sunday of trying to stage a coup and urged the population at large to rally round the security forces.

"The government informs national and international opinion that it's a question of a coup attempt by Denis Sassou Nguesso who once again wants to take power by force of arms," it said.

"The government asks the Congolese people to stay vigilant and support the security forces to save our young democracy."

A spokesman for Mr. Sassou Nguesso said that they were simply defending themselves and demanded that Mr. Lissouba admit to being the aggressor as a condition for peace talks.

"The aggressor has to recognise that he has committed a serious error before we can go to the negotiating table," Ambrose Noumazay said by telephone. "It is not a coup d'etat... We haven't attacked, we have only responded."

Mr. Sassou Nguesso, a former Marxist military leader, was named president in 1979 but voted out of office in 1992 after the advent of democratic reform. He has accused Mr. Lissouba of fomenting violence to postpone the July election.

A national mediation committee was set up Sunday headed by Brazzaville Mayor Bernard Kolelas, runner-up to Mr. Lissouba in the 1992 presidential election.

Mr. Kolelas called Sunday for an immediate ceasefire and deployment of an intervention force to act as a buffer between the rival forces. His own militia in the Baongo district was at the heart of fighting in 1993 but has stayed clear this time.

France originally sent about 450 soldiers to Brazzaville as part of a Western standby operation to evacuate foreign nationals from Kinshasa during the final days of the civil war that brought Mr. Kabila to power in what was then Zaire.

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Jailed Burma opposition politician dies

RANGOON (R) — A jailed opposition party member died of heart disease in Burma Sunday, a government statement said.

Tin Shwe, 67, from northern Mandalay, was jailed in 1991 on charges of instigating civil unrest and attempting to form a parallel government to the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), said the statement, which was released Monday.

He died at Rangoon General Hospital.

Tin Shwe was among scores of members of Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party (NLD) who were arrested after the party's landslide election victory in May 1990, which the SLORC never recognised.

The SLORC has kept a tight rein on the NLD ever since the election.

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Faith's true message

HRH CROWN Prince Hassan's proposal to establish a council against Islamophobia within the framework of the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) is obviously necessitated by the growing fears that unless Islam is seen in its true spirit, as a centrist faith by the international community, there would always be grounds for distorting its form and substance. In an address to parliamentarians from several countries meeting in Amman on Sunday, the Crown Prince called on the international community to view Islam not as a threat but as a positive force that can lend support to progress on an international scale. His Royal Highness also called for reconciliation of civilisations by highlighting the commonalities between the three monotheistic religions. The three major faiths have more in common than differences and identifying these similarities should be a priority.

While the creation of a structure or council against Islamophobia could serve as an effective tool to advance the cause in the long-term, it might be prudent to think in the short-term of articulating new guidelines in the shape of a declaration or even a convention, against not only Islamophobia but all similar phobias pertaining to other religions. The inter-faith dialogue that Prince Hassan has spearheaded and promoted could be the very instrument to draft such a solemn declaration. In due course, the declaration could be adopted in an international setting including a meeting of the IPU and codified into a legally binding convention.

Existing international human rights treaties have general references to freedom of worship and the protection of religion from interferences. Amending current international norms on freedom of religion is not a viable alternative because countries are generally reluctant to open up instruments that have already been agreed upon after painstaking negotiations. Codifying new international legislation to protect religion from threats or smearing campaigns would seem a more probable method to fill the current lacuna on religion including Islam.

The primary consideration remains the perception and appreciation of Islam as it truly is. Extremism is not the way of Islam, since it is a most compassionate faith that preached humanitarianism before the world ever heard of human rights and humanitarian law.

The true image of Islam as a faith that promotes moderation needs to be highlighted so that the world at large can see it clearly and appreciate its message.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i daily said Monday that the United States has retreated from its commitments and turned its role in the Middle East question over to Egypt. The Americans are escaping from the Oslo accord and are in no way able to force Israel to remain committed to the peace deal with the Palestinians or halt Israel's settlement programme, said Tareq Masarweh. The writer said that Washington would be ready to launch another war on Iraq, impose sanctions on Syria and Lebanon and even China, but it is in no way ready to exercise pressure on Israel to force it to comply with the peace requirements. No one can really assess the extent to which Egypt can play the Washington's role vis-a-vis the Middle East. Egypt is not in a position to pressure Tel Aviv to comply with the Oslo accord neither is it a peace mediator taking neutral side; it is rather a partner in the peace process, according to the writer. He said that Egypt's capacity is very limited, especially in the face of the mad actions of the Netanyahu government, and in no way can it exercise the role that should have been played by the so-called sponsor of the peace process.

A WRITER for Al Ra'i daily Monday criticised the United States for trying to exempt Israel from paying \$1.7 million in damages for its shelling of a U.N. compound in Lebanon which killed 105 civilians last year. The resolution was adopted by the U.N. General Assembly but the U.S. objected to the decision and levelled threats against Lebanon, pressuring it to withdraw its support for the resolution, according to Mahmoud Rimawi. He said that Washington wants to exonerate Israel of the crime it committed and prevent the victims from receiving compensation for the loss in human life and property. By condoning the criminal actions and encouraging criminal behaviour against the Arabs, the United States is further showing its bias to the world and is reminding the world of the fate of Boutros Ghali, the former U.N. secretary general, who endorsing a U.N. inquiry report that condemned Israel for the attack on the U.N. Camp where the Lebanese civilians fell, continued the writer. Even if Lebanon and Israel were at peace, the Lebanese, as well as the U.N., are entitled to seek compensation through any party or directly from Israel for its attack that caused the tragedy and the loss of life, he pointed out. The writer said the U.S. behaviour clearly displays the kind of justice in which the U.S. administration believes and its real stand on the peace process.

'Success of the peace process is linked to ending occupation, reversing its consequences'

ON JUNE 5, 1967, with the outbreak of war in the Middle East, the Israeli military occupied the remainder of Mandated Palestine, the Gaza Strip, which was under Egyptian administration, and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, which was under Jordanian control; as well as the Egyptian Sinai Peninsula and the Syrian Golan Heights. As a result of the war, approximately 350,000 Palestinians (U.N. estimates) fled, seeking refuge in neighbouring Arab countries, mainly Jordan, many for the second time after being uprooted from their homes in 1948.

The 1967 war was, undoubtedly, the second most critical event in the history of the question of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The war of June 1967 and its aftermath caused a massive shock throughout the Arab World. The defeat led to fundamental changes in pan-Arab nationalist thoughts and status, to an extent that forced Jamal Abdul Nasser, president of Egypt and the main figurehead of pan-Arabism, to offer his resignation to the stunned Egyptian and Arab masses who were awaiting liberation of Palestine.

The most fundamental of those changes was the weakening of the deep conviction that the liberation and restoration of Palestinian rights would be achieved, and achieved in the near future.

Specifically at the Palestinian level, the war and its aftermath lead to

additional pragmatic and intellectual changes, particularly the evolution and awakening of a Palestinian national identity. This served as a great impetus for several armed political forces and movements, which waged a struggle against Israel as an alternative to the prevalent view that liberation would be achieved by the Arab regimes. The most significant of those was Fateh, the mainstream faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which later enacted revolutionary changes in the political programme of the organisation and raised Palestinian public awareness and acceptance of a pragmatic political settlement with Israel.

The opposite occurred on the Israeli side. Israel came out of the war victorious and powerful, intensifying its aggressive behaviour as a result. This included the termination of the old political and propaganda discourse, established on the concept of a small, weak state threatened by an enormous Arab surrounding. The core of such behaviour was Israel's immediate implementation of expansionist policies.

The first steps were taken in Jerusalem directly after the war ended, as it expanded the municipal boundaries of Jerusalem to ten times the original area and imposed Israeli law on those lands. The building of colonial settlements was also fervently initiated throughout all the occupied territories, a policy which, for a long period, was por-

trayed as part of Israeli security arrangements.

In reality, the Israeli settlement system, with its various dimensions, including the transfer of Israeli citizens to the occupied territories, the illegal acquisition of land, the exploitation of natural resources, the establishment of a separate life structure for the settlers and the subversion of the exercise by the Palestinian people of their rights, is a distinctive combination of classic colonialism waged on the basis of apartheid-like arrangements.

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The Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Arab territories in 1967 also represented a new era of suffering for the Palestinian people under occupation. Israel pursued the most vicious repressive policies and practices against the Palestinian people, including killing, the destruction of their property, detention and imprisonment, violent interrogations and torture, deportation and humiliation. Furthermore, Israel pursued a policy aimed at the manipulation and

destruction of the economy of the occupied territory, enhancing Israeli control over it and retaining it as an auxiliary market as well as exploiting the Palestinian workforce as cheap labour.

It is starkly obvious that the policies and practices carried out by Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory did not conform with the framework of practical arrangements of any military occupation necessary for the achievement of security for the occupying power or for the management of its affairs until a different situation is

reflected in numerous Security Council resolutions and hundreds of resolutions of the General Assembly and other United Nations organs, and despite the contractual obligations of member states in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention.

In this regard, it is clear that it was only possible for such illegal policies and practices to continue, virtually unabated, for thirty years due to the complacency and inability of the international community to compel Israel to comply with the resolutions of the

fist" policy, which entailed the breaking of bones and the use of both rubber bullets and live ammunition, and various forms of collective punishment, including mass arrests, administrative detention, widespread curfews, demolition of houses, deportations and the closure of the Palestinian territories.

The intifada, which took place from 1987 to 1991 in the occupied Palestinian territory, represented one of the most important stages of the history of the Palestinian struggle and was, undoubtedly, one of the main factors that led to the launching of the Middle East peace process.

Following that critical period, the Palestinian people and their leadership decided to become engaged in an historic reconciliation with the Israelis. As part of their commitment in this regard, they have chosen to exert all efforts for the success of the current Middle East peace process. However, it must be made clear, that this reconciliation is bound to the recognition of the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination, and that the success of the peace process is therefore linked to ending the thirty years of occupation, reversing its consequences and establishing the independent Palestinian state, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations.

Don't let scare-mongering make China a foe

By Ezra F. Vogel

BOSTON — China is emerging as the great new threat in the American media. The threat is trumpeted by The New Republic on the left and The Weekly Standard on the right. The books in the news are "The Coming Conflict With China" and "The Clash of Civilisations and the Remaking of World Order".

Newspaper headlines blazon suspicions of the Chinese government buying political influence in Washington although no evidence has been produced. Stories on China focus on oppression of dissidents, trade imbalances,

violations of intellectual property rights and increased military spending. China is attacked for exporting goods made by prison labour, threatening Taiwan and keeping hundreds of dissidents in jail. The new threat of Chinese capitalism recreates fears of the yellow hordes, blue ants and red Communists.

China is a rising power, but it need not be an enemy. If we treat China as an enemy, we increase the chances of creating an enemy. The new U.S. mood encourages ultranationalists in China. Extreme statements from the American press that strike Chinese as ridiculous are

reproduced in China's Reference News and widely distributed. A book called "China Can Say No" has become a hot seller in China.

Is it in the U.S. interest to create 1.2 billion enemies in a country likely to be the world's largest economy within a couple of decades? Is it wise to increase the risk of sending hundreds of thousands of U.S. troops to Asia to confront China?

The mood whipped up by the American press makes reasoned discussion difficult.

Nearly one-fifth of the U.S. Congress has visited China in the last few months, but many representatives are afraid to

report their impressions publicly for fear of being accused of accepting money from China. Some scholars are afraid to speak out for fear of being accused of seeking donations or access in China. Anything business people say is suspect because it would only be self-serving.

China has plenty of problems. Virtually no one would defend China's crackdown on Tiananmen demonstrators in 1989 or its holding of political prisoners. One can sympathise with Western journalists for the restraints and harassment they experience in a country nervous about political opposition and only gradually getting

accustomed to a freer press. But one can hope for more balanced reporting.

The reader of much of the U.S. press has little idea about the fundamental changes taking place in China: the growth of village elections and voices of dissent in the National People's Congress, the increase of information and varied opinions, the spread of the rule of law, the adaptation to international institutions, the outspokenness of the Hong Kong vernacular press.

I have visited China at least once a year since 1979 and return often to the same universities, villages and factories. I see what all other experienced observers of China see — progress not only in economic well-being but in free expression of opinion.

Whipping up a China threat will have dangerous consequences for U.S. policy. We cannot deal with many of the big global issues — trade, proliferation of nuclear weapons, conventional arms control, environmental management — without the cooperation

of all of the world's largest economies.

Given at the peak of the cold war, we had to work closely with Soviet leaders to reduce the risk of conflict. We need to work much more with China, a far more successful economy, to deal with the problems of an increasingly interdependent world.

The Clinton administration and thoughtful members of both parties of Congress are now engaged in an effort to work with China as it emerges as a major power. It is in the U.S. interest to take prudent steps to protect itself from the excesses of a rising power and to stand up for values America believes in. But it will be difficult to succeed without calling a halt to the emotional, one-sided reporting on China.

The writer is Henry Ford professor of social sciences and director of the Fairbank Centre at Harvard University. The article above is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

NATO and EU goal is 'security for all of Europe'

By Klaus Kinkel

BONN — In 1997, NATO and the European Union will open their doors to Central and East European countries. These countries are coming home to Europe.

Our aim is to bolster their democratic and economic reform processes. The European Union is striving to weave an ever closer network of economic and political ties and to integrate new members. The common EU and NATO aspiration is to spread stability, peace and prosperity in a growing and more open Europe.

NATO's opening is a process that must evolve step by step and with circumspection. Not all states wishing to join can be taken in immediately.

It will be instrumental to the overall success of the undertaking that we offer all of these countries a viable perspective. We have demonstrated that the Euro-Atlantic community remains open to them.

Therefore we need what we in Germany call a "Begleitstrategie," a parallel strategy paving the way into this community

of values for those partners who will not join NATO in the first round of enlargement.

I am speaking of a comprehensive, orchestrated approach that exploits the full range of our political instruments: NATO and EU, WEU and OSCE, regional and bilateral cooperation. There must be no new divisions in Europe. Security, stability and prosperity will be fostered and consolidated on the whole continent.

In this spirit, by the NATO-Russia Founding Act in Paris we created a durable basis for our security partnership with Russia. A charter with Ukraine is on its way.

But what can NATO do for those countries that would like to join but are not yet able to do so? First, in Madrid in July, the alliance will reaffirm its pledge that the door will remain open to further candidates. NATO is not a closed shop.

Second, a package of far-reaching measures under the Partnership for Peace Programme will further intensify and deepen practical cooperation. Third, the new Euro-

Atlantic Partnership Council will place political cooperation on a higher plane, lend it a new quality.

However, bilateral security guarantees, too, are sometimes discussed. I do not find this a very attractive proposition. Bilateral guarantees would not live up to the challenges of today's Europe, which is defined by post-cold war multinational security structures.

We must develop these further and not revive instruments of security policy that would risk leading us back into the past. We must not recreate zones of national influence and dependency.

Neither do we want a special status, say, for the Baltic states. The Baltic states themselves do not want a special status, but rather expect a clear message from the alliance that will serve to enhance their security, sovereignty and independence. I am committed to work such a signal from the alliance.

At the summit in Madrid, the heads of states and governments could declare that NATO's security is inextricably

linked to that of the whole of Europe; that the consolidation of democratic and free societies on the entire continent in accordance with OSCE principles is therefore of direct and material concern to the alliance; that it shall be NATO's policy to support free nations which share the values of the alliance; and that among those sharing these values are the members of the European Union as well as the candidates for EU membership, including the Baltic states.

A formula enshrining these principles could effectively meet the concerns of those who fear being left in a security "limbo." These fears are understandable from a psychological and historical point of view. By addressing them, we will be helping to consolidate a comprehensive, cooperative security structure for all of Europe.

The writer is the German foreign minister. The article above is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

LETTERS

The balancing act

To the Editor:

HRH Crown Prince Hassan and Jordan Times' editorial of June 3 were absolutely right to equate humanitarianism with a country's prosperity. Money does not replace happiness, and lessons can be learned from the mistakes of the so-called rich economies where emphasis is on consumption.

A mixed economy, well balanced between privatisation and nationalisation is essential. It is that balance which has to be controlled, and that in all spheres of human activity.

Balance is nature's way of survival and Jordanians should strive to arrive at balanced opinions and help a hard working government as it endeavours to achieve the country's future prosperity and world integration.

Paul Saint, Aqaba.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any issue they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld upon request but only under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing and abridging.

Jerusalem, peace process top Washington forums' agenda

By George S. Hishmeh

WASHINGTON — Without Jerusalem there can be no peace in the Middle East, declared the highest-ranking Palestinian in charge of Jerusalem affairs.

And, he continued, if the Palestinian leadership loses this peace option, the "peace card" will be used negatively by Palestinians and others who were against the stalled peace process. The leadership has been promoting the peace option among Palestinians and other Arab countries since 1993 when it signed the Oslo accord with the Israeli government.

Feisal Hussein, who resides in the Arab sector of the divided Holy City of Jerusalem and is the representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation in charge of Jerusalem affairs, was among several speakers who have recently addressed different forums in this city on the thirtieth anniversary of the June 1967 war which resulted in Israel's occupation of historic Palestine and other Arab regions.

There were also Palestinian Christian leaders addressing conferences in the Washington area. One was organised by Georgetown University's Centre for Muslim-Christian Understanding on "The Future of Arab Christians and of Christianity in Jerusalem and the Holy Land," and another by the Friends of Sabeel, titled "Jerusalem: An Agenda for American Christians."

Sabeel, an ecumenical Palestinian Liberation Theology Centre in Jerusalem, says it strives for "justice and mutual respect across religious

communities." Its programmes also encourage "women, men and youth to discern what God is saying to them as their faith connects with the often hard realities of their daily lives: occupation, violence, discrimination and human rights violations."

Among the Palestinian clergymen addressing the various forums were Rev. Naim Ateek, Canon at St. George's Episcopal Cathedral in Jerusalem and president of Sabeel; and Father Elias Chacour, a Melchite priest in Israel.

Karen Armstrong, author of the well-received books "A History of God, the 4,000 Year Quest in Judaism, Christianity and Islam," and "Jerusalem: One City, Three Faiths," underlined in her remarks the "complete strangeness" that Palestinians are facing in Jerusalem as a result of Israeli policies.

She called for "a greater sense of pluralism" in the Holy City in order to allow coexistence among the three faiths.

Armstrong saw Palestinian Christian presence vanishing in Jerusalem in about 15 years if the Israeli government continues its settlement policy in the Arab sector and its withdrawal of identity cards from the Palestinian residents on technical grounds — a policy which the president of the National Association of Arab Americans, Khalil Jahshan, described later as "ethnic cleansing."

Palestinian emigration during the first 20 years of Israeli occupation, according to a fact sheet distributed at the conference, totalled "at least 160,000 from the West Bank and 103,000 from Gaza."

The fact sheet added: "Studies show that Pales-

tinian Christians emigrate at twice the rate of their Muslim neighbours, because of higher educational levels, connections and family networks in the West."

"Studies show that Palestinian Christians emigrate at twice the rate of their Muslim neighbours, because of higher educational levels, connections and family networks in the West."

Armstrong recalled the bloody history of the Holy City, which also saw various landmarks demolished, but she said the calmest periods were when Muslims ruled there for 400 years after Caliph Omar overran the city in 638 A.D. This was the case also when Saladin recaptured it from the Crusaders, she added.

She noted that Muslim tolerance was similar to the tolerance that existed in Andalusia (Spain) where the three religions coexisted for centuries.

"Palestinian emigration during the first 20 years of Israeli occupation totalled at least 160,000 from the West Bank and 103,000 from Gaza."

She noted the dismay of Palestinian Christians at the failure of Christians in the West to assist them in their plight which, she thought, was "spineless"

and attributed it to fears of being charged with anti-semitism.

She also decried the "double-vision" approach as often evidenced in the term Judeo-Christian,

neglecting the contributions of Islam. She warned that a single vision, as is the case at present in Jerusalem, can be "politically dangerous, shortsighted," adding: "It is a total religious failure."

Her prescription was for "a triple vision," where the three monotheistic faiths can live side by side.

Urging the conference to "strengthen" the Palestinians' presence in Jerusalem, Rev. Ateek proposed that the Arab-Israeli conflict be returned to the United Nations because he

proceeding with the peace process.

He ended his remarks by noting that Jerusalem "will never be at peace unless it is shared" and went on to compare his vision of the Holy City to that of "a mother who cares for the rich diversity of her children."

Feisal Hussein underlined a point that was raised at the Georgetown University conference: Palestinians control less than 14 per cent of Arab East Jerusalem as a result of Israeli occupation policies. He explained that 34 per cent of the area has been confiscated and about 52 per cent has been declared "green land", whereby no construction is allowed.

He also noted that it will cost a Palestinian from \$20,000 to \$30,000 to acquire the various licences before any construction is permitted, if one is lucky to gain a permit.

Hussein said it was unfortunate that the occupation of Jerusalem took place in the month of June since usually about half of the Arab residents of the city had not returned from their summer holidays; the workers were still in the neighbouring Arab states and the students were at universities in nearby countries. At the time, he pointed out, there were only 55,000 Arabs there and now the population has grown to 180,000.

He said the Arab sector is now congested, and challenged the Israelis to allow both Arabs and Israelis to build on any plot of land that is legally owned. He said this would mean that Palestinian Arabs can build in the predominantly Jewish western sector, 70

per cent of which, he said, was owned by Arabs.

Hussein, who was still to meet U.N. Middle East Peace coordinator Dennis Ross, did not seem upbeat about his visit which will also take him to the United Nations.

Several congressmen met with advised him about Palestinian actions that may harm their cause in the West, such as the recent death of three Arab real estate agents or the detention of a Palestinian journalist. He likened this approach to the case of a person who is being harshly beaten by his attacker but when in the scuffle the victim pokes the eye of his assailant he is taken to task for his outrage.

"I will not have a lot to tell that they do not know," he said in reply to a question about what message he would be taking his people and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) which runs the self-rule areas in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

He agreed with another questioner that the Arab states should be partial where they take their business in the West in order to apply pressure on the countries that do not support the Arab and Palestinian position.

Hussein ended his remarks by noting that the Palestinian leadership should not be faulted if an explosion engulfing all in the region erupts since the PNA have transmitted their concerns to the Clinton administration about the deteriorating conditions in the hope that something could be done to regenerate the peace process.

Randa Habib's corner

'Let he who never sinned...'

IT SEEMS that God has appointed some "prosecutors" on earth. At least this is what those "moral rulers" around here think of themselves. They take their role so seriously that they have come up with a "code of good behaviour" which they expect everybody to follow, the alternative being burning in hell, or even (if they have the power to implement it) burning on earth.

Those prosecutors are people who believe that they, and they alone, have seen the light. So they became self-appointed defenders of the "solemn truth."

They preach their belief to a young generation looking for security in a difficult world. They teach them to become, themselves, "prosecutors", by punishing, if needed, violators of the laws of ethics they have charted.

Violators being always the women, men are entitled to a multitude of relationships in the name of manhood, while women should be their passive objects.

A son is taught to be the protector of his family's honour and to defend it with blood. If a sister has "lost her way," by, say, dating a man, killing her should be the right thing to do.

And it is so easy: the courts (with real prosecutors) are very lenient when it comes to honour killing. Like a three-month sentence, by the criminal court, for the young man who killed his sister to cleanse his family's honour.

Soon, such ridiculous sentences would be accompanied by congratulations to the perpetrators for being such "good defenders of morality."

It is high time for women to stand up for their rights and denounce the injustice that goes on. We need women in Parliament who will make it their priority to push for legislation that could protect women, instead of worrying, for example, of being "the only man under the dome."

We must stop this madness. Let "he, who never sinned..."

Arafat says...

(Continued from page 1)

between the two sides. "There are [mediation] attempts by President [Hosni] Mubarak and King Hussein in a new bid to solve the problems that impede the peace process," Mr. Arafat said following a 90-minute meeting with Dr. Majali.

"We insist on a clear position from the Israeli side. There should be no evasion from these commitments, there should be accurate and honest implementation of what has been agreed upon," President Arafat said.

Mr. Arafat denied that Egypt had proposed an "initiative" to break the ice between the Palestinians and Israelis and described Egyptian mediation as "efforts to put an end to the problems."

During his talks with Jordanian officials, President Arafat briefed the King on the "hardships that the Palestinians are facing" because of the Israeli refusal to implement the accords signed between the two sides.

Dr. Majali reiterated the Kingdom's position on supporting "the legitimate demands" of the Palestinian people and said that Jordan will "use all influence we have in the international arena to achieve the just and comprehensive peace in the region."

Secretary-general of the Palestinian National Authority, Taieb Abdul Rahim, told Israel Radio that Mr. Arafat's visit was part of the PNA's efforts to push Jordan to play "a vital role" in order to save the Palestinian-Israeli track from the impasse the peace process has reached," Jordan News Agency (Pena) said.

Rifai assumes...

(Continued from page 1)

and we are keen on strengthening its roots and protecting it against those who try to exploit democracy and harbour harmful designs against it and abuse the spirit of tolerance on which it has been founded with the purpose of aborting democracy and derailing it from its sound course," the King continued.

The King paid tribute to Mr. Rifai recalling the different posts he had held and describing him as a loyal soldier bent on shouldering responsibility and committed to carrying out various tasks with confidence, dedication and loyalty.

The King said he always looked at Mr. Rifai's performance with deep satisfaction and appreciation considering his work as an extension of that of his father, the late

Samir Rifai, who, the King said, enjoyed Royal confidence.

"I am fully confident that through cooperation with your colleagues in the Senate you will shoulder your responsibilities, cater to the requirements of the present stage, confront all challenges we are expected to face with self-confidence, and faith in a bright future to which we aspire," the King added.

Mr. Rifai was born in Amman in 1936, obtained a BA degree in law and international relations from Columbia University in 1958. He served as the King's private secretary and as Jordan's ambassador to the United Kingdom, before becoming prime minister for the first time in 1973.

Mr. Rifai also led Jordan's delegation to the Middle East peace negotiations in Geneva in 1973.

Erbakan says...

(Continued from page 1)

Sunday that Mr. Erbakan had told a meeting of his Islam-based Welfare Party the northern Iraq mission was coming to an end.

Thousands of Turkish troops, backed by air power, have been in Kurdish-held areas of Iraq since May 14 in a cross-border operation against Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) bases used for raids into southeast Turkey.

The Islamist-led government, already at odds with the secularist military over religious activism, was accused by the military last week of holding back funding for the Iraq operation.

Mr. Erbakan, Turkey's first Islamist prime minister, said after emergency meeting with the top brass that the government would

supply the army with all the financial backing it needs.

The operation has attracted condemnation from the Arab League secretariat and a demand that Turkish forces withdraw immediately. Some of NATO-member Turkey's Western allies and the United Nations secretary-general have criticised the operation.

The Turkish military say they have killed 2,252 guerrillas in the operation for the loss of 95 of their own troops. The rebels put losses by the army and its Iraqi Kurd allies at almost 800 men.

More than 24,000 people have died in the 12-year struggle between Turkish security forces and the PKK who are fighting for independence or autonomy in mainly Kurdish southeast Turkey.

M15 thrills historians by opening up its files

By Stephen Grey

THE SECRET identities of Britain's early "spycatchers" are about to be revealed in the first official release of M15 archives in the public domain.

Senior Westminster sources believe the first instalment, covering the period between the security service's establishment in 1909 to its cloak-and-dagger hunt for German spies during World War I, will provide "virtually full disclosure."

Historians have reacted with surprise and delight to news that M15 is at last ready to open its files to public scrutiny, providing a wealth of new material for their research. "We will now be able to get to the bottom of some of the greatest mysteries of Britain's secret history," said Rupert Allason, the former Tory MP who is also known as Nigel West, the author.

Compiled by its histori-

ans, M15 is understood to have decided not to blank out in the archive material the names of its employees who numbered more than 800 by the end of World War I. "Embarrassment will not be an issue," said a source.

Stephen Lander, the service's director-general, is likely to impose a ban on identifying anyone who supplied information to handlers. According to the source, the restriction is necessary to encourage contemporary informants, particularly members of IRA units, to come forward.

"If informants thought that many years from now their grandchildren might find out they were spying for the British, it could deter them from working with M15."

Founded as part of the Secret Services Bureau by Captain Vernon Kell, M15 began its work amid pre-war hysteria that thousands of German spies were

operating in Britain. The agency set up a card index of 30,000 aliens who were classified using codes: AA for "Absolutely Anglicised" to BB for "Bad Boche."

Kell's first coup was to close down a spy network run by German barbers; during World War I, his staff identified another 35 spies of whom 19 were condemned to death — eight were later reprieved.

The archive material, expected to be released by the end of the year, will disclose the full extent of M15's unorthodox methods. Inspector William Melville, one of Kell's senior officers, instructed recruits on how to pick locks and break into houses. During wartime, Melville told them: "You are dealing with men who are potentially desperate. But there are positively no legal penalties even if you shoot to kill."

The documents being considered for release are

understood to include significant disclosures about Mata Hari, the Dutch-Japanese exotic dancer and femme fatale who was shot as a spy by the French in 1917. Margaret Zelle — her real name — was captured in 1915 and interrogated three times by M15 officers.

Other files will shed light on the cases of Ignatius Lincoln, the former Liberal MP who spied for M15 but was later denounced as a criminal and deported, and Sir Joseph Jonas, the former millionaire Lord Mayor of Sheffield, convicted of spying for Germany.

Historians may be disappointed to discover that M15 is not yet ready to reveal documents from perhaps its most controversial era, the inter-war years, when its work against communist subversion led to investigations into several Labour MPs.

The truth about M15's role in the infamous

"Zinoviev letter" has also never emerged. A forged letter purporting to show a communist conspiracy damaged the reputation of Ramsay MacDonald, the Labour prime minister, on the eve of his 1924 general election defeat.

A second release of archive material is expected to pass over these years and focus instead on World War II when the emphasis was again on exposing German spies.

The current M15 leadership has embarked on a policy of greater openness, partly to correct public misconceptions about its role and activities.

From the allegations made by the so-called "spycatcher" Peter Wright that M15 attempted to undermine Harold Wilson and "bugged and burgled" its way across London to claims that it spied on the supporters of CND, the security service has often felt misunderstood.

Sources insist that organi-

sations such as CND were never targeted, only foreign agents who may have tried to infiltrate them. Since the cold war, M15 has gradually moved away from catching spies to leading the fight against terrorism.

Advertisements for new recruits, to be placed in national newspapers soon, reinforce the more open approach; recruitment to the agency used to be conducted over a glass of sherry in the privacy of an Oxbridge college room.

More recently, M15 has placed anonymous advertisements, inviting graduates in search of "interesting work." From now on, a graduate from any university will be able to apply — as will a foreign spy seeking to infiltrate the agency.

The Sunday Times

Making history, six Israelis testify at Dakamseh trial; 10 more on Sunday

(Continued from page 1)

occurred he ran for help, and "on the way I saw a military truck coming in my direction."

"The vehicle approached me, and the driver swerved in my direction. I jumped, but my foot was run over by the truck's wheel," Mr. Kramer told the court.

Wearing the Yamulke, Zakaria Ozairy, who did not want to take the oath on the Torah, said that he shouted to the girls to hit the ground, "then I told three Jordanian soldiers standing behind the shooter to try to stop him but they told me he was crazy."

"I told them he is crazy, but he is killing us, and I later asked for bandages

from Jordanian soldiers to rescue the injured girls but they refused and told me it was forbidden to do so and asked me to go away," Mr. Ozairy, a teacher said.

A 14-year-old schoolgirl who was among the 42 students who were making the picnic to the area, and survived the shooting incident said that she was one of many who fell to the ground as soon as she heard the shots.

Maya Shamuel was shot in the stomach. She said she was hospitalised in Israel for two months.

Yafa Shokan, the 40-year-old teacher who was accompanying the schoolgirls and was hit in the shoulder, stated that she was treated for three weeks, and that until

this date she had not returned to her job "because of shrapnel that is still in my body."

The Israeli witnesses who were cross-examined by Attorney Mjalli about the girls' clothing on the morning of the incident, all testified that the "girls were all religious and wore modest and conservative clothes which consisted of pants, skirts and blouses of different colours."

Also taking the witness stand was First Lieutenant Abed Raboh Jamil, 25, who described the shooting incident through a slide projected map of the Baqoura area.

Lt. Jamil stated that in order for the defendant to pray in the direction of Mecca near the flag tower

where the schoolgirls were standing, "he would have his back facing the pavement where the girls were standing."

Corp. Dakamseh had told investigators shortly after he was arrested that he shot the girls because they provoked him by their loud laughter at seeing him praying.

Some of the Israeli witnesses, however, told the court that the Israeli girls did carry cameras, which they kept in the bus after being informed by the Jordanian army that photography was prohibited in that area.

The prosecution presented the court with the M-16 rifle, which was used in the shooting incident, in addition

to live bullets and empty bullet shells retrieved from the scene.

Charges levelled against Corp. Dakamseh include: premeditated murder, attempted murder, menacing use of a firearm and military mutiny.

He could face the death penalty if convicted by the five-man military tribunal.

On Saturday, four attorneys including Attorney Ahmad Najdawi, who first volunteered to defend Corp. Dakamseh and was one of the nine-member defence team, withdrew from the case to protest the prosecution's decision to summon the Israeli witnesses.

The court session was adjourned by Judge Khawaneh until Sunday.

Palestinian exports to Israel depend on comfort of sniffer dog

GAZA (R) — Palestinian commerce grinds to a near halt when the Israeli sniffer dog at the largest commercial crossing point between the PLO-ruled Gaza Strip and the Jewish state takes his midday nap.

Rows of Gazan-made steel and glass refrigerated display cases slated for export to Israel languished overnight in a gritty berth at Karni checkpoint on a typical day in June, trapped in Gaza until granted security clearance by the dog with a nose for explosives.

"If the dog's not feeling good, we don't export," Jamal Abu Yousef, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) director of Karni checkpoint, told Reuters. "It's humiliating but we really do care about the health of that dog."

Nearby, white-gloved Israeli security inspectors sifted through a truckload of Gazan tomatoes crate by crate. After testing the gloves in a solution for residues of chemicals or bomb-making materials, inspectors waved the cargo onto Israeli flatbed trucks for export.

Tight Israeli security restrictions on Palestinian

goods and workers and extended closures of the West Bank and Gaza in late March after an Islamist militant killed himself and three Israelis. The closure has since been eased.

Mr. Ajluni put lost workers' remittances this year at \$15 million, losses that are compounded by lower PNA tax revenues and by reduced domestic consumer spending.

Said Mudallal of the Palestinian Labour Ministry said some 46,000 documented workers entered Israel from the West Bank and Gaza daily in May, above the figure of 35,000 daily labourers used by the IMF to calculate its eight per cent GNP growth estimate.

"Things look better than last year definitely but it relies very much on the flow of labour and goods. We have so many 'ifs' which are out of the hands of Palestinians," said Ma'moun Sbeih of the World Bank.

U.N. figures show Palestinian exports, mainly to Israel, remained flat through the first two months of 1997 and have not yet recovered to levels that preceded a severe closure in the first quarter of

1996. "There has been some improvement at the borders but it has to be better. The searching procedures are very costly," Mr. Sbeih said.

At Karni, U.S.-supplied X-ray stations manned by Israeli inspectors have cut security delays on some goods. Bundles of coloured straw mats and plastic plumbing parts rolled quickly across conveyor belts and onto waiting Israeli trucks.

"These machines have resolved problems for some goods," Mr. Abu Yousef said. "But every vegetable crate still has to be hand-checked. We have a serious problem with machinery which must wait hours for the dog. Then they dismantle some sample machines."

He said the Palestinians were looking to the United States to supply larger X-ray machines to speed checks on produce.

Beyond a marginal easing of trade flows and fewer days of closure in 1997, there are other signs of a tentative economic revival from a crisis-plagued 1996, when real GNP dropped by three per cent and per capita incomes by more than eight per cent.

International donors, who have pumped some \$1.4 billion in aid since 1993 into an economy with an annual gross national product of about \$3 billion, say the easing of Israeli closures has enabled them to shift their efforts from emergency job-creation schemes to medium- and long-term development projects.

"Donors have their ongoing structural programmes and in times of crisis must shift to emergency programmes," Ferdinand Schmidt, head of the United Nations Donor Coordination Unit in Gaza, told Reuters.

"There were no acute crises in the last few months. So far so good for 1997," he said. But donor efforts focused mainly on the public sector will have only a marginal impact in boosting private investment, which continued to shrink in 1996 despite a rapid expansion of the banking sector.

"The Palestinian National Authority must do more to engender an atmosphere conducive to investment. They need to do more on transparency and on the legal framework of investment," Mr. Schmidt said.

"On top of that the private sector cannot act as a motor of development because there is suffocation," he pointed out.



Hani Haddadin, Joseph Azar, Sam Majumdar, Stephen Price.

NASCO KARAOGLAN GROUP ORGANISES A SEMINAR FOR INSURANCE COMPANIES

NASCO KARAOGLAN group organised a seminar at Al Badia Hall of Jordan Intercontinental Hotel, on Tuesday, May 20, 1997.

The seminar was held in cooperation with Jordan Insurance Federation (JIF). JIF Deputy President Ghaleb Abu Qurah welcomed the participants at this specialised seminar and expressed his gratitude to NASCO for its efforts at the Jordanian and Arab levels.

Seminar coordinator Joseph Azar said in an opening address that the objective of such a seminar is to acquaint all insurance

companies on NASCO's markets which play the role of an Arab broker. NASCO is distinguished for its work in the Arab market. In addition, it has directly established three insurance companies starting with the Lebanese, the Saudi Arabian and the UAE firms.

Dr. Sam Majumdar of the Australian reinsurance company GIO presented a working paper on the reinsurance programmes and spoke about the protection provided by such programmes against any losses and about the price index mechanism. The second working

paper was presented by Karim Nasrallah of the Lebanese Credit Protection Company (CLPC) and briefed the participants on the Lebanese experiment in credit insurance. Stephen Price summed up the objectives of NASCO's goals and the mechanisms of carrying them out as NASCO is considered one of the biggest reinsurance brokers in the world.

About 90 participants representing the Jordanian insurance market attended the seminar. Al Saqr Insurance Company hosted a banquet in honour of the guests and the participants.

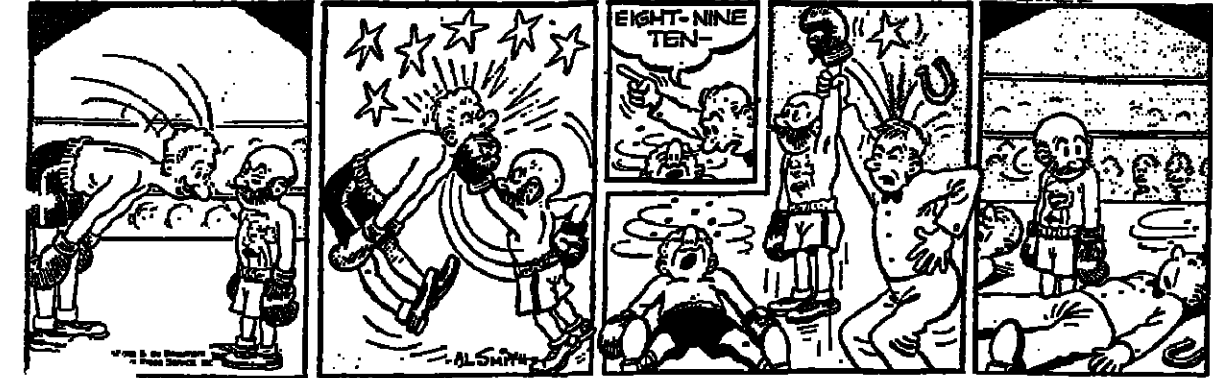
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	FRF	ESP
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7085	0.6115	1.4358	112.40	1.3853	1686.73	1.9226	5.7760
DE Mark	0.5853	1.0000	0.3576	0.6402	65.82	0.6103	987.05	1.1251	3.3811
GB Sterling	1.6354	2.7945	1.0000	2.3477	183.85	2.2655	2757.78	3.1420	9.4385
CH Franc	0.6965	1.1889	0.4251	1.0000	76.37	0.9533	1174.50	1.3386	4.0199
JP Yen	0.0088	1.5168	0.5432	1.2769	1.0000	1.2313	14.99	170.51	5.1369
CA Dollar	0.7219	1.2412	0.3770	0.6103	1.23	1.0000	128.14	1.5136	4.4603
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0126	0.3622	0.6103	1502.63	0.8209	1.0000	11.39	3.4250
NL Guilder	0.5201	0.8642	0.3177	0.6103	36.44	0.7291	878.90	1.0000	3.0043
FR Franc	0.1751	0.2956	0.1057	0.6103	16.43	0.2386	33.25	33.2500	1.0000

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	FRF	ESP
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7085	0.6115	1.4358	112.40	1.3853	1686.73	1.9226	5.7760
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	2.3972	0.9325	2.1410	0.4267	5.1874	2170.20	4.7811	13.850
GB Sterling	0.2666	0.4588	0.16305	0.39139	30.6307	0.2723	0.45884	0.51939	1.55967
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	4.5315	1.62208	3.81243	298.418	3.3098	5.65931	2.02388	4.75737
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.4698	0.1694	0.39139	30.6307	0.2747	0.4698	0.51939	1.55967
Kuwait Dinar	3.3098	5.65931	2.02388	4.75737	372.301	3.3098	5.65931	2.02388	4.75737
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.4588	0.16305	0.39139	30.6307	0.2723	0.45884	0.51939	1.55967
Lebanese 1000	0.65	1.1075	0.4083	0.9853	1.0850	0.65	1.1075	0.4083	1.0850
Egyptian	0.2584	0.4458	0.16305	0.39139	30.6307	0.2584	0.4458	0.51939	1.55967

Energy		USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
Brent	17.75	17.50				
WTX	18.85	18.85				
Bonny	17.75	17.50				
Dubai	17.80	17.73				
UL Gas	189.50	189.00				

Mid-East Currencies		USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4588	0.16305	0.39139	30.6307	0.2723
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.45884	0.16305	0.39139	30.6307	0.2723
KW Dinar	3.3098	5.65931	2.02388	4.75737	372.301	3.3098
BH Dinar	0.3770	0.6103	0.2145	0.5136	4.4603	0.3770
CY Pound	1.8544	3.3393	1.1947	2.8083	220.077	1.8544

Metal Prices		USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
Gold (oz's)	344	344.5				
Silver (oz's)	4.83	4.85				
Platinum (oz's)	464.5	479.5				
AL (3 Months)	1608	1611				
CU (3 Months)	2490	2495				
Zinc (3 Months)	1363	1367				
Lead (3 Months)	649	643				
NI (3 Months)	7305	7325				

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)		USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
1 Month	5.56	5.50	5.59	5.53	6.06	5.56
3 Months	6.31	6.44	6.62	6.69	6.81	6.31
6 Months	6.59	6.59	6.68	6.68	6.71	6.59
1 Year	2.96	3.06	3.08	3.06	3.17	2.96
2 Year	3.23	3.36	3.45	3.49	3.53	3.23
3 Year	1.03	1.18	1.25	1.50	1.37	1.03
4 Year	6.85	6.82	6.86	6.77	6.75	6.85

Main Equity Indices		Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pt. Chg
New York	DOW JONES	7905.8	70.02	0.94	7511.53	7437.98	7308.29	
New York	S&P 500	884.07	6.08	0.71	864.48	858.01	858.01	
London	FT-SE 100	4684.6	39.8	0.85	4684.1	4653.3	4645	
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	20485.75	-2.4	-0.01	20540.7	20362.6	20488.2	
Paris	CAC 40	2891.25	-28	-1.03	2749.19	2657.07	2719.25	
Frankfurt	DAX	3667.43	-27.88	-0.75	3724.96	3665.22	3685.29	

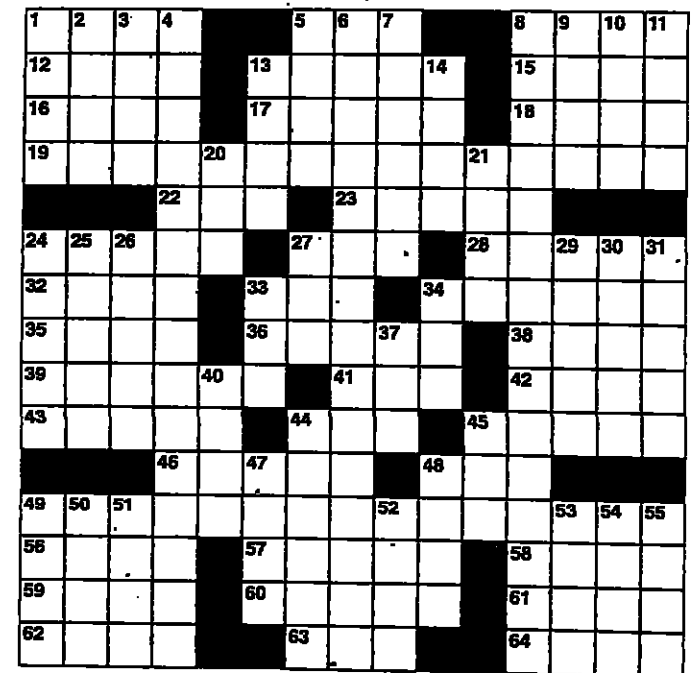
Energy		USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
Coffee (c/lbs)	232.17	Spot				
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1433	Spot				
Sugar (\$/ton)	332	Spot				
Wheat (\$/ton)	180.5	Spot				
Soyab (\$/cbs)	23.21	Spot				
Tea (slg/kg)	150	Spot				
Barley (\$/bush)	0	Spot				
Rice (\$/ton)	480	Spot				

JOD Cross Rates		Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.708	0.710	
GB Sterling	1.1536	1.1536	1.1596	
DE Mark	0.4107	0.4107	0.4128	
CH Franc	0.4898	0.4898	0.4922	
FR Franc	0.1217	0.1217	0.1223	
JP Yen	0.627	0.627	0.6301	
NL Guilder	0.3852	0.3852	0.3867	
IT Lira	0.4165	0.4165	0.4186	

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan

THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS
- Gator's kin
 - TV channel
 - Family boss?
 - Zhivago's love
 - Ados
 - Surrounded by
 - Mountains
 - Water wheel
 - Not any
 - Job for umps
 - Assn.
 - Light parody
 - Storage buildings
 - Sauce type
 - Buttes
 - Hard — (tolling)
 - Ring VIP
 - Batista follower
 - Ogden the poet
 - Floating, barely
 - up (prepared to drive)
 - Avaricious
 - Adversary
 - Author and sailor
 - Before now
 - Roman bronze
 - Hides
 - Church
 - Society
 - Certain deigns.
 - Noisy decade (with "the")
 - AARP members: abbr.
 - Capital of Italia
 - Hair style
 - Game name
 - Up and about
 - Stitch
 - Move stealthily
 - Common contraction
 - Jerks make them
 - Beam
 - Fidel's partner
 - Plea at sea
 - Moore, of Hollywood
 - Luanda's land
 - Give a poor review
 - Sothern and Landers
 - Baseball team



by Philip J. Anderson

SLAB	EDGAR	JARS
PULL	NOONE	ALOE
CLIO	CUBIC	PEON
AUTOMOBILE	JACK	
DIRT	DON	
INLINE	FLIT	SAC
ROUES	SEEN	PUMA
ALASKA	INGRASS	
NAUT	LAND	REVEY
INS	PITT	SAVERS
QUEEN	NANNES	LACE
HURT	ILIA	ELAN
RAGE	NACRE	NERD
EYES	GEEKS	TEES

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HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 1997

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't try to rely today on your intuition where a financial matter is concerned, when the advice of a successful expert is easily obtained. Later this evening will be good for meeting with good friend for some fun.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Any new ideas you have today concerning your career activities need careful study before you attempt to implement them. This is a bad time later this evening to take any risks with your financial or business activities.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have made a promise, which may be difficult to keep at this time, so if at all possible, put it aside for the time being. Later this evening will be a good time to meet with knowledgeable people for advice on any new project.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A dynamic fellow associate can give you the help you need today to tackle a formidable project. Labour side-by-side with this person and thereby you can make your business activities more successful which is your desire.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Remember the old adage: "If it isn't broken, don't fix it." Handle your career activities efficiently, and avoid the criticism of your fellow associates. Later this evening will be a good time to spend quality time with your mate.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You can accomplish much today, whether in personal or business affairs, so take the bull by the horns, get plenty of rest later this evening for the days ahead could be quite stressful if you are not physically prepared.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Avoid hurrying from one place to another today. Instead, take your time and enjoy the scenery. Do some entertaining at home tonight for close friends and make them feel comfortable by being the perfect host.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) If your career activities get you a bit exhausted today, don't hesitate to take breather and regain your energy. Visit your good friends later this evening and make every effort to make them feel that they occupy a special place in your heart.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You should not feel guilty today if you let a secret slip out, it was meant to see the light of day anyway. Listen carefully to the advice of a friend and take what is by him or her as factual in the days ahead.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A good friend may not be capable of giving you the support you had expected today, so don't hold a grudge against this person for no reason. Later this evening will be good for seeing close friends for recreational activities.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be wary of accepting suggestions today from a pessimistic acquaintance. Accompany your mate to an enjoyable social affair later this evening and make every effort to make him or her feel special in your heart.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Don't get involved in a disagreement which is none of your concern or you could get into a difficult situation. Stay around good friends who understand your point of view later this evening and thereby you can be quite successful.

Birthstone of June: Pearl — Moon Stone

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Marriott Hotel posts JD2.8m net profit; likely to begin JD5.5m expansion project this summer

**** DIGGING AND** construction work to build a parking lot, a physical fitness club, a celebrations hall and a "distinguished" commercial centre with a floor for fast food services is expected to begin this summer on the grounds of the Marriott Hotel in Amman. This project, expected to cost JD5.5 million, will provide parking area for more than 250 cars, accommodate nearly 1,000 persons in the celebrations hall and grant 2,000 square metres for the fitness centre.

The project was revealed to the shareholders of the Arab International Hotels Company, which owns the Marriott Hotel, by board Chairman Nadim Muasher, who indicated that the preliminary design by a foreign engineering firm in cooperation with a local company was completed. He also said that all the arrangements and designs were readied to upgrade and renovate all the facilities at the hotel including the rooms, the corridors and the halls. This improvement which is expected to cost JD3.00 million is likely to be completed by the end of 1997.

Holding a general assembly ordinary meeting, the shareholders were told that the operational earnings of the hotel amounted to JD11.06 million in 1996, 10.7 per cent higher than the 1995 earnings. The net profit generated after deducting various costs and expenses stood at JD2.8 million compared to JD2.2 million posted in 1995.

Mr. Muasher pointed out the cash flow from financing operations was JD3.00 million last year (JD5.3 million in 1995) while the cash flow from investment operations totalled JD3.3 million (JD2.8 million). Total shareholders' equity at the end of 1996 amounted to JD20.3 million compared to JD12.8 million at the end of the previous year.

Speaking about the achievements last year, Mr. Muasher said that the modernisation and renovation of the Al Mansaf restaurant was completed as well as the improvement and upgrading of the Champion night-club. He pointed out that the hotel continued to train Jordanian cadres and to have them replace foreign labourers noting that Jordanians accounted for 98 per cent of the total number of staff at the hotel.

The chairman highlighted the strategic plan of the company to invest and develop hotel projects outside Amman, especially in Aqaba and the Dead Sea areas. He indicated that the Arab International Hotels Company has acquired a 45 per cent stake in the JD20 million Tourism Business Company which plans to set up a Marriott Dead Sea Hotel. This hotel, 30,000 square metres in area, will be built on a 64,000 square metres of land, Mr. Muasher said.

He told the shareholders that the occupancy rate in 1996 was about 76.2 per cent as nearly 106,100 persons stayed at the hotel last year. The average charge per room was JD63,800 compared to JD60,900 in 1995.

At the end of the meeting, the shareholders approved distributing JD1.8 million in cash dividends at a rate of 20 per cent and transferring JD153,300 to retained earnings (Al Aswaq + Al Dustour).

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"Every morning I think about running five miles. At least my brain is getting some exercise!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

UNHAM

ORACK

MEEFAL

DESEEC

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: VOUCH TAKEN UNPACK POCKET
Answer: To her fans, she was this - A KNOCKOUT

French company eyes major water contract in Jordan

By Ghaila Alul

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Lyonnaise Des Eaux, a French group specialised in the distribution of water and waste water collection and treatment services opened a regional office in Amman this month. While serving more than 76 million inhabitants in over 80 cities around the world, Lyonnaise Des Eaux aims at expanding its reach to serve the population of the Middle East says Joubane Owayshek, director for regional development in the Middle East and North Africa.

Mr. Owayshek told the Jordan Times Sunday that the Lyonnaise Des Eaux group handles long-term BOT (buy, operate and transfer), and concession agreements with the local authorities. "We handle everything from A to Z, (the services range from) managing the production and distribution of water to handling customer relations," said Mr. Owayshek.

Among the services Lyonnaise Des Eaux provides, he added,

are personalised ones for those who are ill or handicapped and require a continuous supply of water in case the water supply was cut.

The management of the office in Amman was quick to express its interest for the Greater Amman water and waste water management contract on which the bidding is expected to commence this summer.

"We are looking forward to be the successful bidder for the project," Mr. Owayshek said.

The project, which will be financed by several entities including the World Bank, will handle the management of water distribution, the provision of water and waste water services as well as the rehabilitation of water treatment systems in the Greater Amman region, Mr. Owayshek said.

If the office wins the bid for the Greater Amman project, he added, it will create a local affiliate company to handle the contract.

"Our policy is to establish an affiliate with local partners for

the management of the successful contract," Mr. Owayshek explained.

However, since the terms of reference for the project are not yet made available by the Water Authority, Mr. Owayshek could not elaborate on all project services.

"I expect that following this project other projects will be announced to benefit more cities in the north and the south of Jordan," he said.

Lyonnaise Des Eaux, an international, multi-cultural organisation, has annual sales of about \$20 billion, 43 per cent of which are for construction work and 57 for infrastructure services. Sixty per cent of the infrastructure services are for water distribution treatment and engineering, 20 per cent for energy and 20 per cent for solid waste.

Lyonnaise Des Eaux has recently won four contracts for the distribution of water in Jakarta, Manila, Casablanca and Budapest.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SUGESSIMI											
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 09/06/1997											
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	
269,000	213,000	ARAB BANK	11.8	1.57	7	320	81766	286.00	285.50	-0.50	
2,340	1,680	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	2	0.00	48	37050	76710	2.08	2.06	-0.02	
5,500	4,100	CAIRO ARABIAN BANK	11.4	2.73	3	5650	31075	5.50	5.50	0.00	
3,600	2,760	BANK OF JORDAN	8.8	0.00	1	100	312	3.10	3.12	+0.02	
1,210	880	MID-EAST INV. BK.	64.4	0.00	4	1250	1225	97.98	98.01	+0.03	
2,480	2,120	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	8.4	7.42	1	200	456	2.28	2.28	0.00	
5,200	4,250	THE HOUSING BK.	14.7	3.95	14	3249	15989	4.98	4.91	-0.07	
1,950	1,120	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	58.2	0.00	51	60716	120726	3.10	3.24	+0.14	
1,050	780	JOR. GULF BANK	4.8	8.64	5	8150	6532	8.1	8.1	0.00	
4,050	3,480	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	14.9	3.29	2	605	2208	3.64	3.65	+0.01	
1,950	1,120	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	58.2	0.00	51	60716	120726	3.10	3.24	+0.14	
3,800	3,000	JOR. INV. FID. BANK	19.8	0.00	3	1500	5936	1.12	1.12	0.00	
2,850	1,000	BEIT AL-HAL (BEITINA)	6	14.42	28	12250	12831	1.09	1.04	-0.05	
1,440	1,000	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	9	0.00	5	2900	3197	1.10	1.11	+0.01	
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 195.64	CHNG: -0.20	181	139240	433580				
2,350	1,600	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	4.8	11.76	3	650	1105	1.71	1.70	-0.01	
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 113.58	CHNG: -0.06	3	650	1105				
1,820	1,450	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	8.0	6.02	43	17673	29214	1.65	1.66	+0.01	
1,380	930	MATL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	6	4050	5346	1.32	1.32	0.00	
860	480	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	25.2	0.00	4	3750	1818	4.49	4.49	0.00	
7,570	4,560	AD-DUSTOUR	17.6	4.89	1	100	433	4.56	4.33	-0.23	
2,070	1,170	MID. EAST HOTELS	18.9	0.00	6	1500	809	1.12	1.12	0.00	
3,720	2,900	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	7.7	0.00	5	1975	5824	2.95	2.95	0.00	
2,230	1,600	UNIFIED CO.	7.9	6.59	3	750	1258	1.68	1.67	-0.01	
1,040	650	UNION LAND DEV.	9	0.00	2	2000	1300	0.66	0.65	-0.01	
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 112.40	CHNG: +0.09	66	30948	45998				
1,250	930	ATTACHEES	9	0.00	4	330	338	1.03	1.03	0.00	
4,450	3,060	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	27.4	2.70	56	48124	193369	4.07	4.07	0.00	
4,140	2,710	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	11.1	2.50	6	18700	73858	3.90	4.00	+0.10	
7,050	4,950	ARAB POTASH CO.	15.4	3.03	4	4700	31020	6.60	6.60	0.00	
10,250	8,720	JOR. FERTIL. INDUST.	9.16	8.36	8	8109	9709	9.70	9.70	0.00	
1,470	1,050	WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	10.9	7.94	1	500	630	1.27	1.26	-0.01	
3,260	1,650	INDUSTRIAL COMM. AGR.	9	0.00	2	600	1175	1.97	1.97	0.00	
7,150	6,420	JOR. WOODSTOCK MILLS	10.5	3.08	3	500	3243	6.60	6.50	-0.10	
4,000	3,040	AL-DUSTOUR	10.6	5.19	19	5113	15439	3.78	3.85	+0.07	
7,250	5,650	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	6.9	2.99	5	2612	17498	6.80	6.70	-0.10	
5,540	4,250	DAR ALDUAH DV. INV.	13.5	4.52	14	37400	205701	5.48	5.53	+0.05	
1,960	450	LIVERPOOL & POOLERS	10.5	0.00	8	16450	8225	1.50	1.50	0.00	
1,310	1,020	ARAB SAFER CONV. TRD.	32.1	0.00	6	1650	1733	1.05	1.05	0.00	
840	520	NATIONAL INS.	9	0.00	41	2450	1325	0.54	0.54	0.00	
1,450	640	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	9	4250	2703	0.66	0.63	-0.02	
1,090	590	JOR. ROCKWELL INDS.	9	0.00	2	500	290	0.59	0.59	0.00	
1,010	550	JOR. SULPHUR CHEM.	9	0.00	13	6350	3576	0.55	0.55	0.00	
1,670	1,120	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	18.4	4.86	7	2550	3667	1.44	1.44	0.00	
2,540	1,390	UNIV. MOOD. INDS.	9	0.00	11	21250	29750	1.40	1.40	0.00	
1,580	1,120	AL-DUSTOUR	12.0	0.00	8	1500	1752	1.12	1.12	0.00	
1,600	1,300	KATL. CHEMICALS	14.0	4.73	8	11350	16798	1.48	1.48	0.00	
1,230	840	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.9	0.00	14	11000	9570	0.87	0.87	0.00	
2,090	1,510	EL-DAY READY WEAR	54.2	0.00	4	2370	2663	1.55	1.54	-0.01	
1,330	1,080	BEIT AL-HAL (BEITINA)	6.3	0.00	4	3850	4428	1.15	1.15	0.00	
1,340	860	UNION CH. & VEG.	40.9	0.00	4	2700	2445	0.91	0.90	-0.01	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 127.99	CHNG: +0.34	222	207721	846342				
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 159.76	CHNG: +0.04	472	378559	1127025				
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 09/06/1997											
640	370	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	9	0.00	2	1150	407	0.37	0.35	-0.02	
730	410	JOR. TRADE FAC.	13.6	0.00	30	9000	45008	0.49	0.51	+0.02	
840	560	UNION INV. SOC.	9	0.00	4	11300	2037	0.56	0.56	0.00	
780	370	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	24	53900	28572	0.53	0.53	0.00	
880	730	AL-SHARQ INV. 75%	9	0.00	7	22400	12718	0.82	0.81	-0.01	
910	510	AL-DANILAS 75%	62.4	0.00	8	7210	2884	0.65	0.65	0.00	
620	200	JOR. INDS. MATCH-JEMCO	9	0.00	11	19200	4607	0.24	0.24	0.00	
730	510	ARAB FOOD & MED.	9	0.00	1	150	81	0.54	0.54	0.00	
650	430	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	49.5	0.00	3	2500	1075	0.43	0.43	0.00	
780	400	KATL. BUILD. ENG. WORKS	12.0	0.00	56	93141	59640	0.64	0.63	-0.01	
960	900	READY MIX CONCRETE	11.5	0.00	1	400	380	0.95	0.95	0.00	
640	430	KATZAK DIES & MOLDERS	13.5	0.00	4	761	396	0.53	0.52	-0.01	
910	510	JORDAN STEEL	6.76	0.00	6	6049	4475	0.74	0.74	0.00	
580	430	ARAB ELECT. INDS.	9	0.00	4	10669	5334	0.51	0.50	-0.01	
730	600	MID-EAST PHARM. 75%	9	0.00	3	518	201	0.64	0.64	0.00	
1,260	550	UNION TOBACCO 75%	9	0.00	3	2250	828	0.36	0.36	0.00	
730	550	RAZI PHARM. 85%	9	0.00	5	11500	5010	0.44	0.44	0.00	
600	390	INDOS. ENG.	25.9	0.00	5	9600	4032	0.42	0.42	0.00	
760	550	PEARL SH. P. CORV.	9	0.00	3	114	65	0.57	0.57	0.00	
820	520	KATL. POSITIVE	9	0.00	4	5000	3395	0.68	0.68	0.00	
1,000	810	KATL. ALUMINIUM. 75%	9	0.00	5	2200	1291	0.82	0.84	+0.02	
870	530	MID-EAST COMPLEX	8.1	15.15	8	11700	7722	0.67	0.66	-0.01	
GRAND TOTAL					201	360764	190246				

Iraq readies for trade with Syria, Lebanon

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq has readied its customs posts on the Syrian border ahead of a resumption of imports from both Syria and Lebanon, although diplomatic ties have yet to be restored, officials here said Monday.

The director general of customs, Hamid Mahmoud, said, "the necessary measures have been taken to reopen the border posts" of Abu Kamal and Al Tanaf, ending a 15-year closure.

"These measures are part of preparations for the implementation of the contracts between Iraq and Syrian companies to import foodstuffs" under the U.N. oil-for-food accord, he said in official newspapers.

On Saturday, Iraq and Syria signed contracts for the first time since severing relations in 1980. The deals cover the sale of Syrian food products and detergents.

In parallel with the Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement, a trade delegation from Lebanon is holding talks in Iraq on a resumption of Lebanese exports to the sanctions-hit country.

"We have come ... to study areas in which Lebanese and Iraqi businessmen can cooperate," the team leader Nabil Ladki told AFP. "We also want to find out the possibilities for joint investment ... in the industrial sector and services."

A delegation headed by the president of Iraq's chambers of commerce, Zubeir Abdul Ghafour Yunes, is to visit Beirut in early July for follow-up talks, Baghdad newspapers said.

Mr. Yunes is due on Friday to lead a similar mission to Syria, which controls foreign policy

Jazz beat Bulls as Stockton wins with the pass, the steal, the 3-pointer

SALT LAKE CITY (R) — In Salt Lake City, and basketball circles elsewhere, it may be forever known as simply "the pass."

But there was also the steal and the 3-pointer and much more as John Stockton led the Utah Jazz to their must-win, NBA finals-tying, "we're going back to Chicago" 78-73 victory over the Chicago Bulls in Sunday's Game 4.

Stockton had a hand in 10 of Utah's last 12 points — as Chicago scored just two — but his long gridiron football-style throw to Karl Malone, just inches out of reach of Michael Jordan, will be best remembered.

When Malone, the main recipient of passes from the NBA's all-time assists leader, laid the ball in, it put the Jazz up for good with 45 seconds to go.

"I think stock knew it had to be the perfect pass," Malone said.

"The pass he made is probably one you'll never forget in basketball," Utah coach Jerry Sloan said.

"Because I don't know how he made it and got it past (Jordan) the way he did, and Karl being able to catch it. They've done a lot of that over their careers, but it's one of those things that came at the right time."

"It was a beautiful pass," veteran bench man Antoine Carr said. "It was kind of reminiscent of quarterbacks. Of course, the catch was great also."

The self-effacing Stockton, who said he would not have thrown it to anyone but Malone, started the play with a rebound.

"I turned up floor and I saw his (Jordan's) position. I saw Karl's position and cut it loose. Not a lot of thought went into it, other than I thought Karl had position and he's going to battle for the ball and keep his position," Stockton said.

"I tried to get it over the top to Karl so it was maybe a jumping match at the end, or like a post-up at the end, and luckily Karl came up with it."

Jordan said he had been



Utah Jazz forward Karl Malone (R) crashes into Chicago Bulls' forward Dennis Rodman during the third period of game four in the NBA Finals in Salt Lake City. The Jazz defeated the Bulls 78-73 to even the series at two games apiece (Reuters photo)

caught off stride, and never believed he could get to the ball — but he came a fingertip away.

"I'm pretty sure it's going to play over and over tonight (in my mind) like I could have got that pass but I didn't feel like I had the momentum to go up and get it," Jordan said.

"From where I was standing back there, it looked like Michael was going to get a

finger on it," Malone said. "It was just enough and sometimes that's all it takes."

But it was Stockton's earlier 2:23 to go and following a 10-1 Bulls run, that Chicago coach Phil Jackson called the key play of the game.

"In reality the play that hurt us the most was Stockton throwing in a 3-pointer from about 28 feet.

That got them back in the ballgame. We had all the momentum," said Jackson.

"He came up with a rather large shot," said Stockton's teammate Jeff Hornacek.

"I thought the biggest play was when we were down five, he hit that 3-pointer that was from a step or two behind the 3-point line. I think that was a huge basket that kept everyone's hopes alive, that

we can win the game."

And then there was the steal. With 1:35 remaining and the Jazz down by four points, Stockton took the ball away from Jordan as he began to whirl away from his defender, Bryon Russell.

"He picked me clean," said Jordan. "I was more or less looking at Russell and I felt I had him in an advantage situation. And I went to spin."

"I know Stockton likes to gamble, but I didn't feel like he was there. I turned around, he got the ball and knocked it away. I had no choice but to chase him down."

Jordan caught Stockton at the basket, making what looked like a pretty good block, but was called for a foul. "I thought I got it clean," said Jordan. "Whoever made the call said I got him with the body but for the most part I thought I got him clean."

"Stock is great at anticipating where someone is going to go," said Malone.

"John has terrific hands," said Sloan. "As small as he is, I don't think anybody realizes how big his hands are, and he has a will to win."

After the Jordan foul, Stockton made one of two free throws. Then he snared the rebound of a Scottie Pippen 3-point attempt, and Pippen foolishly fouled him in the backcourt.

The Utah point guard sank both foul shots this time and then after two Malone free throws, Stockton assisted on Utah's final two points, by Bryon Russell.

Stockton wound up with 17 points, second on the team to Malone's 23. He shot 6-for-11 from the field including 2-of-3 from 3-point range.

He had game-highs for assists with 12 and steals with four. He committed just two turnovers — amazing for a team's main ball handler.

"John's a great player, he made the big plays down the stretch of the game," Pippen said.

World No.1 Sampras and Hingis face uncertain times

PARIS (R) — Pete Sampras and Martina Hingis will sweep through the gates at Wimbledon this month wondering if the world of tennis will ever recover its equilibrium following a French Open which defied logic right to the end.

Gustavo Kuerten's stunning triumph in the men's final in Paris, not to mention Iva Majoli's success over Hingis the previous day, will not count for much when the newly-crowned champions attempt to win a match on grass for the first time in their careers at the all England club.

But if the odds on the pair repeating their Roland Garros success in London are about the same as the French voting to adopt fish and chips as their national dish, the Paris experience was unsettling for both world number ones.

Hingis, in particular, now knows she can take nothing for granted if she wants to build a grand slam career record to compare with her predecessors Steffi Graf and Monica Seles.

The 16-year-old should enjoy plenty of marvellous days into the next millennium but Saturday's women's final was definitely not one of them. She blamed Majoli's 6-4 6-2 win on tiredness, yet the Croat was among those who felt there was not much physically wrong with her opponent.

"I knew she was confident but I also knew she was not unbeatable," said Majoli, now fifth in the world despite never having won a match at Wimbledon in two previous visits.

"If you give her a chance on her backhand it's almost a finished point, so I knew I had to pressure her forehand, vary things a little so she didn't know what I was going to do and be aggressive."

It proved a winning formula and one that Hingis's rivals will be sure to study closely over the next two weeks. Majoli, however, is simply concentrating on her first hurdle at Wimbledon where the grass is so alien she joked she would have to spend the next two weeks eating it as preparation.

"My next dream is to win my first round match at Wimbledon...I've never won a match there in the juniors, the doubles or

the singles," she said. "I'm prepared to die on court at Wimbledon just to win that first round."

Beyond that, Majoli feels she is now ready to threaten the established elite, many of whom are showing increasing signs of strain.

"I know Martina is No. 1 and there is also Steffi and Monica but I feel I can fight with them for first place," Majoli insisted. "I think I'm ready. That's my next goal."

Sampras, meanwhile, will have watched Kuerten's 6-3 6-4 6-2 success with distinctly mixed feelings.

His dreams of winning the French title for the first time looked closer to reality than ever until a stomach bug fatally weakened his resistance in his third round encounter with Sweden's Magnus Norman, a result which helped propel Belgian qualifier Filip Dewulf into a semifinal with Kuerten.

On most surfaces on most days, Sampras might expect to have too much power for the Brazilian but is prone to attracting sudden problems when the horizon looks completely clear.

He will still be regarded as favourite to collect his third Wimbledon title in four years but there were subtle hints from the likes of Pat Rafter, Mark Philippoussis and Yevgeny Kafelnikov that he may be forced to work harder than ever.

Goran Ivanisevic, a first round loser in Paris, also remains more than capable of following Majoli's lead and completing a notable Croatian double but Kuerten is not expected to succeed Bjorn Borg in 1980 as the last man to win the French and Wimbledon in the same year.

"It's a great feeling but I'm not thinking too much about the future," admitted the colourful Brazilian, preparing for his first appearance in the main draw at the all England club.

"For Wimbledon I have to change my clothes but that will not be my biggest problem. I'll go there to learn and, if I'm lucky, to win some rounds."

The next threat to Sampras, it seems, will lie elsewhere.

Kuerten firm believer in himself

PARIS (AP) — It took one win over Andre Agassi in February this year to make Gustavo Kuerten a believer in himself.

That's what his coach considers the turning point in Kuerten's short career, which now includes the French Open title.

Lari Passos, the 39-year-old Brazilian coach who has been with Kuerten since December 1989, said his protégé first realised his potential in February this year at a tournament in Memphis, Tennessee.

"He beat Byron Black in the first round and after the match in the locker room I sat down with him and said, 'look in my eyes and believe what I am going to say. You can beat every player that's out there if you really believe it,'" Passos said Sunday.

"And he looked into my eyes and shouted, 'I believe it. I believe it. I can beat them.'"

The next round he beat Agassi and I did the same thing with him again. I looked him in the eyes again and said, 'always play your game because with that game you can go into the top 20.'

Only four months later, Kuerten is in the top 20 following his stunning 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 victory over Sergi Bruguera in Sunday's French Open final.

Entering the tournament ranked 66th in the world, Kuerten had the toughest draw: he beat the 1995 champion Thomas Muster, then ousted the 1996 champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov.

On Sunday, he beat the 1993 and 1994 champion, Bruguera.

The 20-year-old Brazilian became the lowest ranked champion in Grand Slam history. He had a losing record for the year coming into the event and had only cracked the top 100 last summer. Kuerten had never been



Gustavo Kuerten

past the quarterfinals on the ATP Tour before.

It all changed Sunday for the man nicknamed "Guga," who wears a constant happy face and has a vicious forehand.

Throughout the final, as in all of his previous matches, Kuerten kept grinning as he hit one incredible shot after another.

Perhaps it's that samba rhythm. "He's just a very happy player," Passos said. "Music is important and I always put samba music on in the morning when he gets up for breakfast."

There was more samba after the victory, when Brazilian fans assembled outside the Roland Garros clubhouse to hail their new hero. "Guga" came out, signed autographs and sprayed champagne into the crowd.

Kuerten will next week play at a clay-court tournament in Bologna, Italy, before going on to the next Grand Slam, Wimbledon.

Passos said it was better than going back to Brazil immediately "for all the celebrations."

"After Today's match, I told him not to forget that tomorrow is another normal tennis day," Passos said.

Kuerten's game has also benefited from watching and practising a lot with Marcelo Rios, the Chilean star.

Kuerten plays in a 'loud blue-and-yellow' outfit. Three days ago, Passos said, John McEnroe came into the locker room and told Kuerten not to change the outfit: "It messes the other guys' eyes."

"I thought he was joking," Passos said.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANISHA HIRSCH
GOREN Bridge Masters, Inc.

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q. 1 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
- AS AK107432 SA AQ1084
The bidding has proceeded:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
17 Pass 1A Pass
2A Pass 2NT Pass
What action do you take?
- A - Four spades is a preempt, which at this level and vulnerability promises eight tricks with spades as trumps. It also denies two aces, so you have one sure loser to start with. Unless partner has the king of clubs as well, slam can be no better than on a finesse, and you could even have two losers on the fly. Pass.
- Q. 2 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
- AS AK107432 SA AQ1084
The bidding has proceeded:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
17 Pass 1A Pass
2A Pass 2NT Pass
What action do you take?
- A - There is no reason why you should not complete a picture of your hand. Bid three clubs. That shows no additional values, it simply promises at least five cards in each of your suits, and partner is allowed to pass.
- Q. 3 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
- AS AK107432 SA AQ1084
The bidding has proceeded:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
17 Pass 1A Pass
2A Pass 2NT Pass
What do you bid now?
- A - Being timid souls, we would settle for four clubs. However, we have a sneaking admiration for those who would venture three no trump. The auction strongly suggests that partner has some values in spades.
- Q. 4 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
- AS AK107432 SA AQ1084
The bidding has proceeded:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
17 Pass 1A Pass
2A Pass 2NT Pass
What do you bid now?
- A - Two spades would not be a rescue here, but we see a problem. If we bid three hearts next, partner might think we are simply correcting without substantial strength in the suit. Therefore, we would raise to three hearts immediately. We could hardly have a better doubleton in support of partner's suit.
- Q. 5 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
- AS AK107432 SA AQ1084
The bidding has proceeded:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
17 Pass 1A Pass
2A Pass 2NT Pass
What action do you take?
- A - Two suited hands are notoriously difficult to bid if you start with a talcote double — partner almost always responds in your short suit, and further action by you promises a better-than-minimum hand. Therefore, we would start with a simple two-heart overcall and see where the auction takes us.
- Q. 6 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
- AS AK107432 SA AQ1084
The bidding has proceeded:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
17 Pass 1A Pass
2A Pass 2NT Pass
What do you bid now?
- A - You almost surely have the best hand at the table, but it does not qualify for a jump shift. As responder, that would confirm either a self-sufficient suit of your own or a good fit for partner. This hand has neither, so start by responding two diamonds and then consider a jump in clubs at your next turn.

Mitchell favours wild-card spots for Johnson, O'Brien

INDIANAPOLIS (R) — Three-time Olympic 100-meter finalist Dennis Mitchell said on Sunday he favoured giving injured world record-holders Michael Johnson and Dan O'Brien "wild-card" exemptions to August's World Championships.

But the U.S. men's coach for the meet and a former Olympic coach said they opposed the idea.

"In light of the situation U.S. Track and Field is in right now, I don't feel it would be a bad idea to allow these athletes to have the opportunity to compete in the world championships without competing in our championships," Mitchell, chairman of U.S. Track and Field's athletes advisory committee, said in a telephone interview from his home in Gainesville, Florida.

Current U.S. rules permit only the top three finishers in the American Championships, which begin Wednesday in Indianapolis, to represent the United States in the world meet.

IAAF officials said over the weekend they do not plan to provide wild cards for the Athens Championships, but would be pleased if the U.S. Federation made exceptions so Johnson, the star of the Atlanta Olympics, O'Brien and injured long jump world record-holder Mike Powell could compete.

But Dean Hayes, the U.S. men's coach, and former U.S. Olympic coach Mel Rosen said they would oppose

wild-card berths being granted at this time.

"As a coach, I'd love to have those athletes," said Hayes, speaking from his home in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. "And I can see both sides. But how many do you decide to take? I'd rather have an arrangement for that possibility made ahead of time."

Rosen, who coached the U.S. men's team at the Barcelona Olympics, said wild-card exemptions, now or at any time, "would open up a can of worms that would never stop."

"Everybody would say, 'why should I run in the championships when I can get a wild card.'"

Spokesman Pete said the U.S. federation would "do everything we can to cooperate if the IAAF is willing to work with us to ensure the top stars are in Athens."

But other U.S. officials said they doubted exceptions would be made to the rules.

The issue has been raised numerous times in previous years when top U.S. stars have been injured, but the United States has continued to select its world and Olympic teams through head-to-head competition.

TODAY AT

CINEMA TEL:634144
PHILADELPHIA "1"

Diane Keaton, Goldie Hawn & Bette Midler ... in

THE FIRST WIVES CLUB

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:634144
PHILADELPHIA "2"

BALTO

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15

DANTE'S PEAK

Shows: 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:699238
PLAZA

Ahmad Zaki... in
NASER 56

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30

THE ENGLISH PATIENT

Show: 10:15 p.m. only

CINEMA TEL:677420
CONCORD

CONCORD "1"
Tom Cruise...in
JERRY MAGUIRE

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45

CONCORD "2"
Michael Jordan...in
SPACEJAM

Shows: 3:30, 6:00

Nabil & Hisham's Theatre
TEL: 625155

The actors are
on annual leave
The theatre will
reopen July 2, 1997

Tunisia, Nigeria and Morocco qualify for World Cup '98

LONDON (AP) — Mexico closed in on a berth in the 1998 World Cup from one qualifying group while Tunisia, Nigeria and Morocco all came out of Africa this weekend to make the field for France.

The Mexicans improved to 3-0-2 in the CONCACAF group with a 1-0 victory Sunday at El Salvador. Mexico leads the qualifying sector with 11 points, with Costa Rica next at seven and the United States tied for third with five. The top three teams advance.

Luis Garcia got the goal on a solo rush through the defence in the 64th minute. For most of the game, Mexico played defensively, and El Salvador could not penetrate.

The three African nations joined the two automatic qualifiers — France (host) and Brazil (defending champion) — for the 32-team soccer showcase in France.

Tunisia tied Egypt 0-0 on Sunday in Cairo, assuring it the top place in African Group Two. Tunisia has 13 points to seven for Egypt with only one game remaining.

Nigeria defeated Kenya 3-0 and Morocco won Ghana 1-0 on Saturday. On Sunday, Guinea beat Burkina Faso 3-1.

In South America, it was

Argentina 2, Peru 0; Ecuador 1, Chile 1; Uruguay 1, Colombia 1; and Bolivia 1, Venezuela 1.

For host Argentina, Hernan Crespo opened the scoring in the 44th minute and Diego Simeone made it 2-0 in the 46th. Argentina (5-2-4) is second in the standings with 19 points, four behind Paraguay. The top four teams from South America qualify.

Peru dropped to 3-4-4 with 13 points.

At Quito, Ariel Grazini opened the scoring for host Ecuador (4-5-2) 43 minutes into the game on a header. Marcelo Salas tied it at 58 minutes for Chile (3-3-4).

Last-place Venezuela (0-9-2) stunned visiting Bolivia (3-2-5) when Gianni Savarese scored at 62 minutes. Bolivia's Ramiro Castillo tied it at 70 minutes, booting in a perfect pass from Milton Coimbra.

Host Uruguay (4-5-2) took the lead after just seven minutes when Dario Silva latched onto a long pass from Alvaro Recoba to beat goalkeeper Farid Mondragon. But striker Hamilton Ricard scored five minutes into the second half for Colombia (5-3-3), which is third overall with 18 points.

In Europe on Sunday, Scotland took a big step toward qualifying when Gary McAllister scored on

a 50th-minute penalty kick for a 1-0 win over Belarus in Minsk.

Scotland has 17 points in eight games to lead Group Four. Austria, which has played two fewer games than Scotland, is second with 13 points after a 3-1 win in Latvia. Also in the group, Sweden won 3-2 at Estonia and has 12 points in six games.

In Europe, the winners of each of the nine groups and the top second-place team get the 10 automatic berths.

Elsewhere in Europe on Sunday:

In Group One, Denmark defeated Bosnia-Herzegovina 2-0. The Danes lead the group with 13 points in five games, three points ahead of Greece.

In group three, Hungary tied leader Norway 1-1 in Budapest, giving Norway 11 points in five games. Hungary is second with seven points in five games. Finland defeated Azerbaijan 3-0.

In Group Five, Russia took the lead with a 2-0 win in Moscow over Israel in a game briefly delayed by torrential rain. Russia has 14 points to 13 for Israel. Bulgaria, with Hristo Stochkov rejoining the team and scoring a goal, routed Luxembourg 4-0 to go to 12 points after five games.

In Group Six, Spain (20

points) won 1-0 over the Czech Republic and Yugoslavia (19 points) downed Slovakia 2-0. The Faeroe Islands defeated Malta 2-1.

In Africa on Sunday, Namibia defeated Liberia 2-1. South Africa beat Zambia 3-0 - eliminating the losers from contention — Cameroon tied Angola 1-1. Togo blanked Zimbabwe 2-0, and the Republic of Congo beat Congo 1-0.

South Africa plays the Republic of Congo on Aug. 17 to decide which one makes it to France. Also that day, Cameroon can qualify with a win at Zimbabwe.

In Asia on Sunday, China, the group leader, tied Tajikistan 0-0, and Turkmenistan routed winless Vietnam 4-0.

In Europe on Saturday, Belgium pulled into a virtual tie with the Netherlands atop Group Seven with a 6-0 victory over San Marino; Ukraine stayed atop group nine by holding Germany to a 0-0 draw; Portugal moved right behind the with a 2-0 victory over Albania; Macedonia beat Iceland 1-0 and closed within five points of Romania in Group Eight; and Georgia beat Moldova 2-0 in group two.

Russia	5	3	2	0	13	2	11
Bulgaria	4	3	0	1	10	5	9
Cyprus	6	1	1	4	5	14	4
Luxembourg	5	0	0	5	1	13	0

Upcoming matches

Wednesday, Aug. 20	Bulgaria Vs. Israel	
Sunday, Sept. 7	Luxembourg Vs. Cyprus	
Wednesday, Sept. 10	Bulgaria Vs. Russia	
Saturday, Oct. 11	Cyprus Vs. Luxembourg	Rus-

Group 6

TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Spain	7	5	2	0	20	4	17
Yugoslavia	7	5	1	1	21	6	16
Slovakia	5	4	0	1	14	5	12
Czech Rep.	4	1	1	2	7	3	4
Faeroe Islands	6	1	0	5	7	23	3
Malta	7	0	0	7	1	29	0

Upcoming matches

Wednesday, Aug. 20	Czech Republic Vs. Faeroe Islands	
Sunday, Aug. 24	Slovakia Vs. Czech Republic	
Saturday, Sept. 6	Faeroe Islands Vs. Czech Republic	
Wednesday, Sept. 10	Slovakia Vs. Yugoslavia	
Wednesday, Sept. 24	Malta Vs. Czech Republic	Slo-
Slovakia Vs. Spain		
Saturday, Oct. 11	Czech Republic Vs. Slovakia	
Malta Vs. Yugoslavia		
Spain Vs. Faeroe Islands		

Group 7

TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Netherlands	6	5	0	1	23	3	15
Belgium	6	5	0	1	16	6	15
Turkey	5	2	1	2	10	5	7
Wales	6	2	1	3	14	12	7
San Marino	7	0	0	7	0	37	0

Upcoming matches

Wednesday, Aug. 20	Turkey Vs. Wales	
Saturday, Sept. 6	Netherlands Vs. Belgium	
Wednesday, Sept. 10	San Marino Vs. Turkey	
Saturday, Oct. 11	Netherlands Vs. Turkey	Bel-

Group 8

TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Romania	6	6	0	0	20	0	18
Macedonia	7	4	1	2	19	10	13
Ireland	6	3	1	2	15	4	10
Lithuania	5	3	0	2	6	5	9
Iceland	5	0	2	3	1	8	2
Liechtenstein	6	0	0	7	2	36	0

Upcoming matches

Wednesday, June 11	Iceland Vs. Lithuania	
Wednesday, Aug. 20	Liechtenstein Vs. Iceland	Ire-
Ireland Vs. Lithuania		
Romania Vs. Macedonia		
Saturday, Sept. 6	Iceland Vs. Ireland	Liechten-
Iceland Vs. Romania		
Lithuania Vs. Macedonia		
Romania Vs. Iceland		Lithuania
Saturday, Oct. 11	Iceland Vs. Liechtenstein	Ire-
Ireland Vs. Romania/Macedonia Vs. Lithuania		

Group 9

TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Ukraine	8	4	2	2	7	6	14
Germany	6	3	3	0	11	4	12
Portugal	7	3	3	1	7	2	12
N. Ireland	7	1	4	2	5	5	7
Armenia	6	0	5	1	4	8	5
Albania	6	0	1	5	3	12	1

Upcoming Matches

Wednesday, Aug. 20	Northern Ireland Vs. Germany	
Portugal Vs. Armenia		
Saturday, Sept. 6	Ukraine Vs. Albania	
Armenia Vs. Albania		Germany
Vs. Portugal		
Wednesday, Sept. 10	Germany Vs. Armenia	Albania
Vs. Northern Ireland		
Saturday, Oct. 11	Germany Vs. Albania	Portugal
Vs. Northern Ireland		Armenia Vs. Ukraine

European World Cup qualifying at a glance

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

15 teams qualify, France qualifies as host, (Group winners qualify), (best runner-up qualifies) (remaining runners-up enter playoff)

Group 1	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Denmark	4	3	1	0	9	2	10
Greece	6	3	1	2	8	4	10
Croatia	5	2	3	0	10	6	9
Bosnia	4	1	0	3	3	9	3
Slovenia	5	0	1	4	4	13	1

Upcoming matches

Bosnia-Herzegovina vs. Denmark	
Croatia vs. Bosnia-Herzegovina	
Slovenia vs. Greece	
Denmark vs. Croatia	
Bosnia-Herzegovina vs. Slovenia	
Greece vs. Denmark	
Slovenia vs. Croatia	

Group 2	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Italy	6	5	1	0	11	1	16
England	6	5	0	1	11	2	15
Poland	5	1	1	3	3	8	4
Georgia	4	1	0	3	2	5	3
Moldova	5	0	5	2	1	3	0

Upcoming matches

Saturday, June 14	Poland vs. Georgia	
Wednesday, Sept. 10	England vs. Moldova	Georgia
Italy		
Wednesday, Sept. 24	Moldova Vs. Georgia	
Tuesday, Oct. 7	Moldova vs. Poland	
Saturday, Oct. 11	Italy vs. England	Georgia
vs. Poland		

Group 3	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Norway	4	3	1	0	10	1	10
Hungary	4	2	0	2	4	4	6
Switzerland	4	2	0	2	4	4	6
Finland	4	1	1	2	5	6	4
Azerbaijan	4	1	0	3	2	10	3

Upcoming matches

Wednesday, Aug. 20	Hungary Vs. Switzerland	Fin-
land Vs. Norway		
Saturday, Sept. 6	Switzerland Vs. Finland	
Azerbaijan Vs. Norway		
Wednesday, Sept. 10	Hungary Vs. Azerbaijan/Norway	
Vs. Switzerland		
Saturday, Oct. 11	Switzerland Vs. Azerbaijan	Fin-
land Vs. Hungary		

Group 4	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Scotland	7	4	2	1	8	2	14
Austria	5	3	1	1	5	3	10
Sweden	5	3	0	2	9	5	9
Latvia	6	2	1	3	8	8	7
Belarus	5	1	1	3	3	9	4
Estonia	6	1	1	4	2	8	4

Upcoming matches

Wednesday, Aug. 20	Estonia Vs. Austria	Belarus
Vs. Sweden		
Saturday, Sept. 6	Austria Vs. Sweden	Latvia Vs.
Estoni		
Wednesday, Sept. 10	Belarus Vs. Austria	Sweden
Vs. Latvia		
Saturday, Oct. 11	Austria Vs. Belarus	
Scotland Vs. Latvia		Sweden Vs. Estonia

Group 5	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Israel	6	4	1	1	9	4	13

Women's Asian Handball Championship S. Korea retain title after 34-27 win over China

By Roufan Nabhas and Khaled Harb
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Asian titleholders South Korea were Monday crowned champions of the 6th Women's Asian Handball Championship after defeating China 34-27 (19-15) in their match held at Al Hussein Youth City.

China came in the second place and Japan finished third. Uzbekistan came in the fourth followed by Taipei in last place. The titleholders, as well as the next top three teams will now play in the World Championship due to take place in Germany in August.

The defending champions played a near-perfect game against the Chinese who gave it all they have in their effort to win the title. However, the experience of the Korean team put an end to any such aspirations.

The two teams started offensively early especially the Koreans who were led by Sun Hee carrying the burden of scoring for her team.

On the other hand, China played fast, accurate passes and targeting the Korean goal.

The Korean team pressured the Chinese and gave them a hard time throughout the first half. Korea kept the scoring and secured the first half with 19-15 result.

In the second half, the Chinese did not give up hoping to turn the result in their favour.

China's Lee, Sheng and Zhee worked together to create scoring chances. While successful, their attempts were not enough to take the lead even only once.

The Korean players demonstrated their experience in handling back balls and scoring and China's goalkeeper Yo put up a big effort preventing some strong direct hits from Korea's Sun Hee.

Towards the end, the Chinese team looked tired and had turnovers which gave the Korean team a chance to score more goals enabling them to retain their title after a 34-27 win.

Held under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sumayya Bint Al Hassan, the competition grouped top five Asian teams but the Kingdom's team was merely a spectator and tried to gain experience by watching the experienced Asian players in competition.

Final Standings

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
S. Korea	4	4	-	-	156	71	8
China	4	3	-	1	115	89	6
Japan	4	2	-	2	88	91	4
Uzbek.	4	1	-	3	74	105	2
Taipei	4	-	-	4	46	123	-

Johnson overpowers Tigers

DETROIT (R) — Randy Johnson pitched no-hit ball for seven-plus innings and matched a season high with 15 strikeouts Sunday, carrying the Seattle Mariners to a 2-0 shutout of the Detroit Tigers.

Johnson (9-1) extended his personal winning streak to five games and did not allow a hit until Phil Nevin hit the first pitch he saw in the eighth into left field for a clean single. Johnson, who has struck out 15 or more batters 11 times in his career, walked three batters.

In Boston, Wil Cordero, Reggie Jefferson and Nomar Garciaparra each drove in two runs in a nine-run fourth inning explosion that let the Boston Red Sox erase a five-run deficit and roll to a 12-6 victory over the Cleveland Indians.

Every Boston starter had at least one hit and Garciaparra went 3-for-5 to lead the 16-hit attack.

In Kansas City, Tom Gooden's two-run single keyed a four-run second inning and Tim Lincecum allowed two runs over six solid innings, helping the Kansas City Royals pull out a 4-2 triumph over the Texas Rangers.

Texas starter Ken Hill (4-4) gave up the four-run second to take the loss.

Belcher (7-6) gave up six hits with two walks and six strikeouts to win his second straight after three consecutive losses. Mike Williams retired the final two batters to post his first Major League save.

In Minneapolis, Tim Salmon homered and drove in four runs and Garret Anderson delivered a two-out, two-run single in a five-run seventh inning as the Anaheim Angels rallied from a four-run deficit and defeated the Minnesota Twins, 8-6.



St. Louis Cardinals' Royce Clayton has the double play broken up by Los Angeles Dodgers' Greg Gagne, allowing the Dodgers' Eric Anthony to reach first base in the fourth inning in Los Angeles (Reuters photo)

In New York, David Cone allowed one run over seven innings and Paul O'Neill and Tino Martinez homered, leading the New York Yankees to a 3-1 victory over the Milwaukee Brewers, and a sweep of their three-game series.

In Chicago, Roberto Alomar homered and Tony Tarasco rapped a run-scoring single in the sixth inning, helping the Balti-

more Orioles hold off the Chicago White Sox for a 2-1 victory.

Jimmy Key (10-1) allowed a run, six hits and a walk and struck out a season-best nine.

Armando Benitez pitched a perfect eighth and Randy Myers got the final three outs for his 19th save, matching Mariano Rivera for the league lead.

Danny Darwin (2-3) gave

up two runs and eight hits with three walks and two strikeouts but took the loss.

In Toronto, Geronimo Berroa hit a three-run homer and Mark McGwire added a two-run shot, his 24th of the season, as the Oakland Athletics held on to defeat the Toronto Blue Jays, 7-5, and salvage a split of their four-game series.



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U.N. TAKE OFF AFFECTS THE HUNGRY LITTLE ONES. MOST: A Somali mother and her malnourished child Sunday at the Towfiq feeding center in south Mogadishu. The number of malnourished children in Mogadishu has been growing over the past few months, due to poverty and lack of rain. Many people have not worked for the past two years since the United Nations left Somalia (Photo by AFP)

Israel prepares record stand at Paris air show

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli defence firms, keen to keep their exports booming, will be present in record numbers when the Jewish State opens its stand this week at the Paris air show, the defence ministry said Monday.

Twenty-two Israeli companies have set up exhibits at Le Bourget airfield north of Paris for the show which opens Saturday, up from 19 Israeli firms at the previous event in 1995, ministry Director General Ilan Biran said.

Weapons on exhibit will include for the first time in public the Python 4 air-to-air missile built by the armament development authority and already sold quietly to several air forces, officials said. The Israelis will also be offering a new airborne search-and-rescue system for finding downed pilots behind enemy lines in severe combat conditions and unmanned combat and reconnaissance drones, they said.

The Paris air show comes this year at a time when the Israeli arms industry is conquering new markets, notably in southeast Asia

which accounts for nearly a third of Israeli weapons exports, Mr. Biran told a press briefing before heading for Le Bourget.

Last year total export contracts topped the two-billion-dollar mark, up 25 percent from 1995, and the trend is continuing, Mr. Biran said.

Negotiations currently underway and which "have a good chance of resulting in signed contracts" could account for another five billion dollars in sales over the next two to three years, 60 percent of them to Asia, he said.

Mr. Biran said Israel's success in battling other arms giants like the United States and France came in large part from its acquired expertise in upgrading existing weapons systems rather than selling new equipment.

"It's not the entirely new materiel which is drawing orders, because defence budgets in general are on the decline, but the upgrading of older equipment," Mr. Biran said.

Such upgrades include adding new weaponry and avionics to older model aircraft.

Iran to spend \$100 million on quake reconstruction

DUBAI (R) — Iran needs to spend \$100 million over the next 18 months to reconstruct regions devastated by earthquakes, an official was quoted Monday as saying.

The official news agency IRNA said Rasoul Zargar, head of the natural disasters headquarters at the interior ministry, "predicted that during the next 18 months, 300 billion rials (\$100 million) will be spent on the reconstruction of quake-hit areas of the country."

Iran was hit by at least three major earthquakes in the past year as well as scores of milder tremors and thousands of aftershocks that U.N. officials say have stretched Iran's relief supplies to the limit.

Mr. Zargar said 30,500 housing units would be built in Khorasan province, hit by a May 10 earthquake measuring 7.1 on the

Richter scale, by the approach of winter. The quake devastated 170 villages, killed more than 1,500 people and made 50,000 homeless.

Iran said Sunday it had begun rebuilding thousands of homes destroyed by a deadly quake in the north-western Ardabil province in February.

Nearly 1,000 people were killed, about 2,600 injured and 36,000 left homeless in the February 28 quake which rocked the mountainous area with an intensity of 5.5 on the Richter scale.

IRNA said Saturday President-elect Mohammad Khatami was currently touring the cities of Birjand and Qaen in the east, hit by May's quake. The agency said reconstruction of quake-stricken areas would begin in his presence.

Gun ban keeps Sharon out of Israel's soccer loss

TEL AVIV (R) — A ban on guns kept former general Ariel Sharon from entering a Moscow stadium to watch Israel's national soccer team do battle with Russia.

"They wouldn't let his guards go in, therefore the minister couldn't attend the match," said a spokeswoman for Mr. Sharon Monday. Mr. Sharon, Israel's national infrastructure minister, was in Russia to discuss a natural gas deal.

Israel lost the world cup qualifying match Sunday 2-0.

The spokeswoman said the Israeli embassy had failed to arrange in advance for the entry of the armed guards, calling the incident in which Mr. Sharon was turned away from the stadium "a mistake stemming from lack of coordination."

Iran rejects American conditions to better ties

TEHRAN (AP) — U.S. conditions for renewing ties with Iran are merely rhetoric, an Iranian newspaper said Monday.

President Clinton said last month that for Washington to establish relations with Iran, it must stop trying to wreck attempts to reach peace in the Middle East, halt the development of weapons of mass destruction and end support of terrorism.

The English-language Iran News, which is close to the Foreign Ministry, called the conditions "irrational." It added: "His statement was pure rhetoric which we have been hearing all along."

Iran has repeatedly said that groups like Hamas in the Palestinian territories and Hizbollah in Lebanon, both of which the United States considers terrorist, are guerrillas fighting Israel's illegitimate occupation of their land.

The editorial said Iran was for a genuine and just peace but opposed the peace process because it doubted Israel's sincerity. It added that no evidence exists that Iran supports terrorism. The issue of weapons of mass destruction should be referred to the International Atomic Energy Agency, which has inspected Iran's nuclear facilities and "certified Iran's peaceful intentions in using nuclear power," the editorial said.

Swiss government rules out fast compensation to Jewish groups

BERN (AFP) — The Swiss government on Monday ruled out speedy compensation for Jewish organisations forced to pay millions of dollars to support thousands of Jewish refugees in Switzerland more than fifty years ago.

A deputy from Zurich, Verena Grendelmeier, had proposed that the confederation pay back national and foreign — notably American — Jewish groups the sums that the government required them to fork out to house and feed Jews fleeing Nazism.

Jewish organisations paid 55 million Swiss francs to host 22,000 Jews in Switzerland between 1930 and 1940.

In a motion to parliament, Ms. Grendelmeier said the measure was discriminatory since it had not been applied to other refugee categories.

"This policy...gives the impression that we have cashed in for every Jewish life saved," she said.

In its response Monday, the government said it needed to analyse the issue in the context of

Switzerland's general policy towards refugees, a matter being looked into by an international commission of historians led by Swiss Jean-Francois Bergier.

The commission has between three and five years to publish its conclusions on a range of Swiss war-time issues, including the purchase of stolen Nazi gold and dormant Jewish bank accounts as well as how Bern handled Jews seeking refuge within its borders.

The government acknowledged that it had

obliged Jewish organisations to finance the Jewish homeless in the country since authorities provided no relief or lodging.

The Jewish Diaspora has also taken the Swiss government to task for turning away 30,000 other Jews seeking refuge.

The government, attempting to ward off stinging criticism of its behaviour during the Nazi epoch, has announced several initiatives to help Holocaust survivors and their heirs.

Mubarak rejects Qadhafi's call for Arab summit

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak on Monday cast doubt on the need for an Arab summit meeting which Libya has been calling for to discuss the future of the Arabs.

Libya's leader, Muammar Qadhafi, has in recent weeks dispatched envoys to invite Arab heads of state to meet soon in Libya to forge what he has described as a common Arab strategy for the 21st century.

"What's the purpose of this proposed summit... is it to achieve (Arab) unity? Unity will not be achieved because Arab states are suspicious of each other," Mr. Mubarak told reporters during a tour of Al Faiyum, an oasis province southwest of Cairo.

"Unity on paper does not work... And will lead to differences," he said.

Egypt is a regional power whose say on Arab affairs carries considerable weight. It was host to the last Arab summit in June last year, a fact which makes Mr. Mubarak the only head of state who can officially call for the convening of an Arab summit.

Mr. Qadhafi, whose country has close relations with Egypt, has said he wants an Arab summit to work out a plan for the remaining three years of the millennium and to prepare the Arabs for the 21st century.

The Libyan leader has in the past suggested unity between his north African nation and other Arab states, but his attempts have, consistently failed and given rise to suspicions about his motives.

Egypt refers 150 Islamist militants to military court

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian state security prosecutors on Monday remanded 150 suspected Islamist militants, including four lawyers, to appear before a military court on charges of planning violent attacks, security sources said.

The defendants include 40 alleged members of the militant Gamaa Al-Islamiyah (the Islamic group) and 110 members of another violent group, Jihad (holy war), the sources added.

The suspected Gamaa members, who are led by four lawyers, are charged with trying to revive the group's activities and planning criminal operations, including attacks on important figures and senior security officials, the sources said.

Among the Gamaa defendants is the militant Ahmad Abdul Wahab, who is on the run from a death sentence handed down to him in absentia for killing a senior police officer.

"Lawyers Radhwan Toni and Moustafa Sayyed were charged with attacking tourist targets but acquitted by court in 1993," one of the sources said.

"The other two lawyers, Shazi Saghir and Khalaf Abdul Raouf, are among defence lawyers in terrorist cases," he added.

It was not immediately clear when the 40 people were arrested. Large amounts of arms, ammuni-

tion and organisational documents were seized in a security campaign in four provinces, the sources said without elaboration.

The Gamaa has been fighting the government since 1992 to establish a strict Islamic state. More than 1,000 people have been killed in the conflict.

Jihad's alleged members have been in detention for the past two years charged with planning to carry out attacks on the Khan Al Khalili bazaar in Cairo.

Many Jihad members were either executed or imprisoned for their role in the assassination of President Anwar Sadat in 1981.

Sudan announces roundup of opposition 'subversives'

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudan announced Sunday the arrest in Khartoum and three other towns of an unspecified number of opposition activists accused of "subversion" and conspiring against the military regime.

A government spokesman said the detainees would stand trial after investigations were completed.

A source close to Sudanese security said those detained were members of the Eritrea-based National Alliance led by

Brigadier Abdul Aziz Khalid.

Brig. Khalid defected from the Sudanese army to form an armed group based in Eritrea. He has allied himself with the Democratic National Alliance and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in a bid to topple the government of President Omar Bashir who seized power in a bloodless coup in June 1989, ousting a democratically elected government. The source said the group had been under

surveillance for some time and "were rounded up and arrested in different towns last week." The source said the crackdown was made in Port Sudan, Kassala and Ed Damazin in addition to Khartoum but he refused to give the number of those detained.

Documents seized from the suspects indicated targets for sabotage and assassination, the source said.

He said the detainees provided the National Alliance in Eritrea with intelligence from inside Sudan.

Saddam's son left hospital after 'complete recovery'

BAGHDAD (AP) — Saddam Hussein's eldest son, Uday, has recovered from wounds he received during an assassination attempt in December and left hospital Monday, the official Iraqi news agency reported.

"Uday Saddam Hussein left Ibn Sina hospital at 2 p.m. today following his complete recovery from the treacherous and despicable attack on him on December 12," said the agency.

An official at Uday's office who spoke on condition of anonymity later said that Youth Television will broadcast footage of the Iraqi leader's son leaving the hospital later Monday.

Uday, who had been

widely seen as his father's heir apparent, has been hospitalised since December, when gunmen shot him about 10 times while he waited in his car in the upmarket Al-Mansoura neighbourhood in Baghdad.

Since then, he has been seen on television several times, moving his arms but never his legs.

He told reporters after undergoing surgery on April 20 that doctors had operated on his shattered left leg. But Western diplomats and opposition figures outside Iraq said doctors had removed a bullet lodged near his spine.

After the surgery, Uday said, he should be able to resume his usual activities

in two to three months and play sports within six months.

Prior to the assassination attempt, which he blamed on neighbouring Iran, Uday ran the information and trade ministries. He owns and runs Youth Television and the daily newspaper Babel.

He also heads Iraq's Olympic committee and runs the national soccer federation.

In April, his Youth Television showed footage of him driving a red Porsche convertible in the neighbourhood where the attempt on his life took place in December, but Monday's report said he has now left hospital for good.

Chechenya to become Islamic state

MOSCOW (AFP) — Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov intends to "Islamicise" his republic by setting up an Islamic banking and court system, and imposing the Arabic alphabet, Russian news agency ITAR-TASS reported Sunday.

Mr. Maskhadov's spokesman Kazbek Khadzhiyev, cited by the agency, said orders had been given to create an Islamic central bank for the small Caucasian state, replacing the existing institution and several commercial banks.

This would be done because the existing, non-religious, banks "violate the moral and economic rights of the citizens with their exorbitant interest rates," Mr. Maskhadov said.

The President had also told the republic's leaders to progressively abolish the secular justice system in favour of courts using Islamic Law as the only way to check rising crime in the predominantly Muslim republic.

Mr. Maskhadov, who recently signed a decree authorising the death penalty for people organising abductions, called on the new courts to deal out "severe punishment" to 27 such prisoners.

Kidnapping has taken on problematic proportions in Chechenya. On Friday, four Russian journalists were released after being taken hostage three months ago. Their three colleagues remain in captivity.

According to Mr. Khadzhiyev, the President also wants Chechens to be using the Arabic alphabet within five years. Officially, the Latin alphabet is the official set of characters, but most Chechens use Russia's Cyrillic alphabet to communicate, a legacy from its Soviet-ruled days.

Poland's Krakow 'dry' for Pope — almost

KRAKOW (R) — Hotel minibars were much in demand in Krakow when authorities banned liquor sales during Pope John Paul's three-day stay, leaving bartenders idly polishing glasses and politely saying "no" to thirsty pilgrims. But there was no lack of ingenuity in circumventing the ban in the southern Polish city, where beer usually flows as briskly as the Vistula river that runs through it. The prohibition applied to all liquor stores, pubs, restaurants and bars.

Thieves speed off with Ferraris at celebrations

MODENA, Italy (R) — Italy's Ferrari wrapped up 50th anniversary celebrations on Sunday, but seven enthusiasts left the party empty-handed after thieves sped off with their prized sports cars. Police said a specialist gang had probably stolen all the Ferraris after they were left unattended by Dutch, German and Italian collectors on Friday and Saturday.

However, there was good news for one Ferrari lover in the United States, who recognised his own car, which he had not seen since it was stolen in 1977, being driven around the streets of Rome last week at the start of the anniversary bash. Italian newspapers said the anonymous millionaire spotted the car during a report by CNN and immediately phoned the police. The rare model, worth some three billion lire, has been impounded. The current owner, an English collector, bought the Ferrari in 1989 and did not suspect it was stolen property.

Miracle fish cure draws 300,000 patients in India

HYDERABAD, India (R) — More than 300,000 people suffering from respiratory ailments converged on a small, tiled house in southern India to consume a miracle cure of herbs and water stuffed inside a live fish, witnesses said. Hyderabad's Bathini family, which has been giving away the medicine for 152 years, started distributing the cure during the auspicious Mrigasira solar phase, which occurs once a year for two days. For patients to be cured, they must buy a two-inch-long fish, known locally as Murrel, and swallow it live after the Bathinis stuff their secret herbal mixture inside its mouth. People who have consumed it say the fish helps clear the patient's food pipe as it makes its way down to the stomach, and later releases the medicine. It survives for about 15 minutes inside the body, clearing accumulated phlegm as it flaps about.

California pilot sought in cremated remains probe

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Investigators were searching for a California pilot who allegedly put thousands of boxes of cremated human remains in storage rather than spread them over mountains and at sea. The Contra Costa county sheriff's department said it had issued an arrest warrant for Allan Vieira, who operates the Vieira Flying Service. Authorities believe he was hired by funeral homes in California to spread the ashes over mountains, rivers and the Pacific Ocean. Instead, deputies said Vieira placed at least 3,500 boxes of the cremated remains in public storage lockers. Most of the boxes of ashes have name tags and dates attached. Identifying the deceased and when they were cremated. One box was dated in the 1950s.

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